THE NEW
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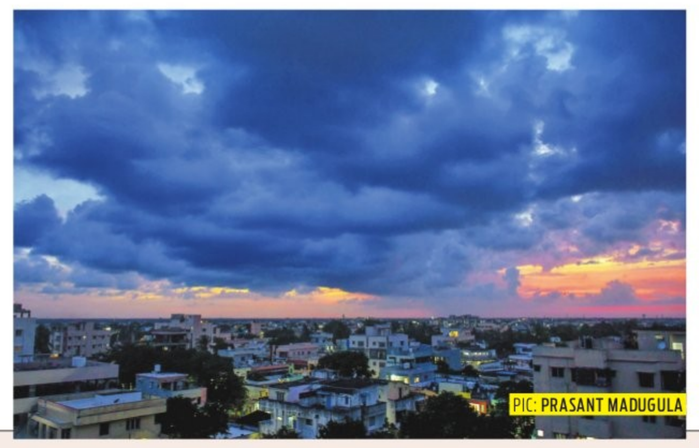
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CYCLONE MONTHA TO HIT ANDHRA COAST TOMORROW, SAYS MET OFFICE

The deep depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal is very likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast near Kakinada on Tuesday evening, it said

EXPECTED TO BECOME SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM

"Yesterday's depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal intensified into a deep depression at 0530 hrs IST today, October 26, 2025, over the same region," the meteorological department said on Sunday. The system is expected to further intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by the morning of October 28 and cross the Andhra Pradesh coast by evening, it said | P7

ODISHA, BENGAL BRACE FOR HEAVY RAINFALL

- The IMD warned of 'extremely heavy rainfal' in south Odisha on 28th and 29th. The Odisha government has put all 30 districts on alert
- Heavy rain is expected in south Bengal districts of North and South 24 Parganas, Purba and Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram, Howrah, Purulia, Purba and Paschim Bardhaman, Birbhum and Murshidabad

110 km/hr
IS THE MAXIMUM WINDSPEED EXPECTED WHEN THE STORM HITS THE COAST

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

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21st century belongs to India and ASEAN: PM

Reaffirms the bloc as a key pillar of India's Act East Policy; 2026 declared ASEAN-India year of maritime security

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the 21st century "belongs to India and ASEAN", asserting that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations remains a central pillar of India's Act East Policy and a vital partner in shaping an inclusive and sustainable Indo-Pacific.

Delivering his opening remarks at the India-ASEAN summit in Malaysia virtually, Modi said India and ASEAN together represent nearly one-fourth of the world's population, bound not just by geography but also by "deep historical ties, shared values, and a common vision for the Global South".

"We are not only commercial partners but also cultural companions," Modi said, reaffirming India's support for ASEAN centrality and its Indo-Pacific outlook. "Even amid global uncertainties, our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has made steady progress and is emerging as a strong foundation for global stability and development... The 21st century is our century — the century of India and ASEAN," he said. "The ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and India's goal of Viksit Bharat 2047 will together shape a bright future for humanity."

The prime minister highlighted that the summit's theme, Inclusivity and Sustainability, mirrors India-ASEAN priorities, from digital inclusion and resilient supply chains to food security and green energy.

"India fully supports these priorities and is committed to advancing them together," Modi added.

Talking about the growing collaboration in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and maritime security, Modi announced that 2026 will be celebrated as the 'ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation', marking an intensified push for joint work in the blue economy and ocean governance.

He said that the partnership now extends across education, tourism, science and technology, health, green energy, and cyber security, while also emphasising shared efforts to preserve cultural heritage and deepen people-to-people ties.

The 10-member ASEAN bloc, with a population of about 680 million and a combined GDP of over $3.9 trillion, is the world's fifth-largest economy if treated as a single entity. Timor-Leste became the 11th member of ASEAN on Sunday.

India counts ASEAN among its top trading partners, alongside China, the US, the EU, Japan, and South Korea.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addresses the 'India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Annual Summit' via video conferencing, in New Delhi | PTI

EAST TIMOR ADMITTED AS NEW MEMBER

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Sunday welcomed East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, as its newest member. It was ASEAN's first expansion since the 1990s. Meanwhile, Cambodia and Thailand signed a pact expanding a ceasefire on their borders | P11

US ties with Pakistan not at India's expense: Rubio

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

THE US is looking to expand its strategic partnership with Pakistan but not at the cost of its 'deep' relationship with India, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, in an apparent bid to calm concerns in New Delhi over Washington's renewed outreach to Islamabad.

Speaking to reporters, Rubio stressed that both India and the US maintain independent relationships with different nations, terming it "part of a mature, pragmatic foreign policy."

"Just like India has ties with countries that the US doesn't, the vice-versa applies," Rubio said, adding: "I don't think anything we're doing with Pakistan comes at the expense of our relationship or friendship with India, which is deep, historic, and important."

Rubio is expected to meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur. It will be the fourth in-person meeting between the two leaders this year, a sign of high-level engagement continuing despite friction over trade and energy issues.

The Jaishankar–Rubio meeting is expected to cover trade negotiations and India's continued imports of Russian oil, a major friction point for the Trump administration.

The Secretary of State's comments come amid Washington's efforts under US President Donald Trump to recalibrate ties with Pakistan including deals on critical mineral mining and energy cooperation, a move that has raised eyebrows among the policy makers in New Delhi. Trump's administration has also maintained high tariffs of 50% on key Indian exports, while Islamabad continues to enjoy preferential treatment in some sectors.

Rubio defended the US engagement with Pakistan as an attempt to "rebuild a strategic partnership," citing past cooperation on counterterrorism. "We're fully aware of the challenges with regard to India and everything else," he said. "But our job is to create opportunities for partnerships where possible," he added.

EC to release schedule of pan-India roll revision today

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) will announce the schedule for the nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls on Monday, sources said.

The ECI is holding a media briefing on Monday afternoon, which will be attended by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

According to ECI sources, the poll panel will announce the schedule during the briefing. The exercise will be conducted in two phases, sources said. The first phase will cover more than 10 states and one Union Territory, including the election-bound states of Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and Puducherry, they said.

"The SIR is likely to be rolled out in two phases. The first phase will include Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal, where Assembly elections are due in 2026," a source said, adding: "The second phase will cover states that are holding local body elections and where severe winter weather may create challenges for the electoral revision process."

The sources said the first phase will begin on 1 November, and all the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of the states and the Union Territory covered in this phase have been told to remain alert, as work may start at any moment.

The ECI recently reviewed the readiness of all states and Union Territories for the nationwide SIR during a two-day conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), which concluded in New Delhi last Thursday.

ON THE PROWL

Tiger mauls farmer to death in Mysuru dist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A tiger mauled a farmer to death at Sargur taluk of Mysuru district on Sunday. The incident occurred just two weeks after another farmer was attacked by a tiger.

The victim, identified as Rajashekar Murthy, was killed by the tiger in a farm located between Mulluru Hundi and Bennegere villages in Hediyala hobli near Chikkadevamma Hill around 1 pm. Murthy and his fellow farmer Siddaramaegowda (50) had gone to harvest tomatoes at Bennegere village. After completing their work, they were heading home for lunch when the tiger, hiding in the bushes, attacked them.

While Siddaramaegowda managed to escape, Rajashekar was mauled by the tiger and he died on the spot because of severe injuries on the face. P5

CJ, LAWYERS' REQUEST

HC MAY BE SHIFTED, GOVT LOOKING FOR LAND IN CBD: DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

DCM DK Shivakumar interacts with walkers during the 'Walk with Bengaluru' event at Cubbon Park on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

THE Karnataka High Court, currently functioning from Attara Kacheri -- a heritage building constructed in 1868, is likely to be relocated because of space constraints. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said the state government is looking at 15-20 acres of land to move the High Court to a new location within the Central Business District (CBD).

After his Walk with Bengaluru programme in Cubbon Park on Sunday, Shivakumar told the media, "At the celebration of 25 years of Nyayamitra Cooperative Bank on Saturday, lawyers and the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court requested for 15-20 acres of land to relocate the High Court due to space constraints."

He said the state government is looking for land within the CBD, and discussions are on for space near Race Course Road, while other suggestions of officials too are being considered. The High Court cannot be shifted outside the city as it has to be within the CBD and should be easily accessible to lawyers, judges and others. The location should also have convenient transport facilities, he added.

"Since the existing building (Attara Kacheri) is a heritage structure, no modification can be done. We will sort out the problem of shifting the High Court, as it is a big issue," he added. P2

Since the existing building (Attara Kacheri) is a heritage structure, no modification can be done

DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

EXPRESS READ

Russia targets Kyiv with drones, killing 3

KYIV: Russia targeted Ukraine's capital with drones, killing three people in their homes, authorities said on Sunday, adding that at least 29 people were wounded in the attack.

Pilots warn of fatigue as DGCA extends duty time

NEW DELHI: The pilots' body on Sunday urged the DGCA to withdraw the flight duty time extension for two-pilot Boeing 787 Dreamliners, warning it could lead to fatigue-induced errors | P9

RSS man in health trust, Congress leaders want CM to remove him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Congress government, which has banned RSS activities on government premises, is at the receiving end from its own party members as it has appointed an RSS man as the trustee of 'Yeshasvini Cooperative Members' Health Protection Trust'.

The cooperation department, in its order on October 23, has picked Dr Sridhar, head of Kumar Hospital in Tiptur, as one of 13 trustees of the board.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is the chief patron of the trust as he handles the cooperation portfolio too, while the secretary of the cooperation department is the chairperson. Sridhar is among five specialist doctors on the board.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee member CB Shashidhar wrote to the CM on Sunday, requesting that the order be withdrawn to save Congress and its workers from the embarrassment. He also drew the attention of DCM and KPCC president DK Shivakumar. "On October 12, Dr Sridhar had taken part in the RSS path sanchalan with 'ganaveshadhari' dress," he said.

He alleged that Tiptur MLA K Shadakshari had recommended Dr Sridhar's name to be appointed as trustee.

EXPRESS INTAKE

K'taka-TN water row solved naturally this year: DKS | P6

Karnool bus fire: Biker was drunk, confirms FSL | P7

NATURE'S CUT

U'khand to greet out-of-state vehicles with green tax from Dec

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

TOURISTS and pilgrims driving into Uttarakhand will soon be greeted not just by its scenic mountains, but also by a new 'green cess'.

The state government has finalised plans to roll out a mandatory fee on all vehicles entering the hill state from other regions from December.

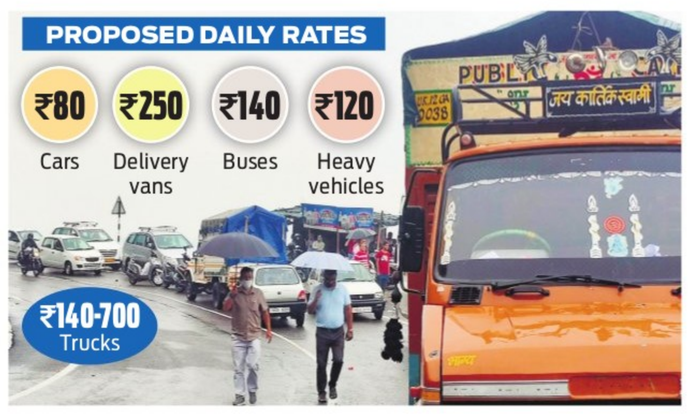
The decision aims to generate revenue specifically for environmental protection and infrastructure improvement within the ecologically sensitive Himalayan state. The objective is to balance booming tourism with fragile mountain ecology.

"Starting December 2025, a Green Cess will be collected from vehicles entering Uttarakhand from other states," said S K Singh, Additional Commissioner of the Transport Department. He added that the fee collection will be automated, deducted directly via the vehicle's existing FASTag system.

To ensure seamless monitoring of the collection process, the state has installed Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at 16 strategic entry points. The Transport Department anticipates that the cess could yield an estimated annual revenue ranging between ₹100 crore and ₹150 crore. The entire automated system is being managed through a contract with a private firm to maintain transparency.

However, not all vehicles will be subject to the new tax. Exempted vehicles include two-wheelers, electric and CNG vehicles, government vehicles, ambulances and fire brigade trucks. Furthermore, vehicles re-entering the state within a 24-hour window will not be charged the Green Cess a second time.

According to the department, the revenue generated will be utilised for "air pollution control, road safety improvements and urban transport development".



Starting December 2025, a Green Cess will be collected from vehicles entering Uttarakhand from other states

S K Singh, Additional Commissioner of the Transport Department

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
● Monday: 27.10.2025 ● Year: Vishwavasu ● Ayana: Dakhsinayana
● Ritu: Sharad ● Masa: Karthika ● Paksha: Sukla ● Tithi: Shashti 2.50 am
● Nakshatra: Moola 10.13 am ● Moon in Makara Rashi ● Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
● Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm ● Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 19°C | MAX 24°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 06.12 am
Sunset 05.54 pm
Moonrise 10.53 am
Moonset 10.20 pm

ALL FOR THE CITY

CITIZENS WANT K'TAKA GARBAGE COLLECTION ACT ENFORCED

Cubbon Park walkers seek rain shelters, want encroachers removed from lung space

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DURING Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme, several citizens asked for strict action against illegal constructions and enforcement of the Karnataka Garbage Collection Act and Apartment Management regulations. During the civic dialogue, citizens and local associations raised a range of concerns — from pollution in Cubbonpet to poor coordination among civic agencies.

Citizens highlighted a range of difficulties and civic issues. One of them urged the DCM to address the lack of streetlights, much-needed skywalk repairs and installation of elevators in them, garbage collection, poor road condition, water shortage near court areas, regulating private bus and penalties for traffic and building violations.

In localities around Minerva Circle, the residents talked about the persistent problem of clogged and overflowing drains and rainwater mixed with sewage flowing on the streets.

Former soldiers and long-time property owners complained of difficulties in obtaining khatas and property tax records, citing duplicate entries and delays in official processing. "Even after paying taxes, my property is marked with multiple challans and the system doesn't allow khata registration," said an ex-serviceman.

Walker groups and citizen associations requested rain shelters and improved pedestrian amenities inside Cubbon Park, particularly for senior citizens who use the park daily.

Activist Arun Pai urged the authorities to make the park more accessible and citizen-friendly. "Cubbon Park is an asset older than Independence. Instead of restricting public activities, let's invite people in and manage it better. This park can be cleaner and more welcoming than even Hyde Park or Central Park," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar interacts with citrizens and pets dogs during a 'Walk with Bengaluru' event at Cubbon Park on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Other speakers drew attention to issues such as unopened community halls, lack of parks in densely populated areas, and others. Residents of Cubbonpet highlighted a growing environmental hazard — gold-melting units operating with toxic chemicals near the Civil Court area. Shivakumar assured participants that all concerns had been noted and officials will address them.

6-point letter

The Cubbon Park Walkers' Association, representing thousands of citizens and walkers, in a letter to the DCM sought urgent intervention to safeguard Cubbon Park. Association president Umesh said, "The 300-acre park has been reduced to 196 acres, and for the past 15 years, we have fought legal and civic battles to protect it from encroachment and misuse." He urged that the state assume legal and administrative responsibility with a dedicated cell, ban vehicular entry, vacate leased properties, halt commercial activities, appoint environmentally-conscious officers, and enact a Cubbon Park Protection Act, ensuring permanent preservation of this heritage space.

Naming Metro station after Puneeth

KS Rajanna, former state commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, proposed naming a Metro station in Pottery Town after actor late Puneeth Rajkumar. "I have come here to make a special request on behalf of lakhs of his fans. If the Pottery Town Metro station could be named after Puneeth Rajkumar, it would be a great honour and a powerful gesture for Greater Bengaluru. His father, Kannada film legend Dr Rajkumar, had also filmed scenes for 'Bhakta Kumbara' near this very area."

'We are with you on tunnel road project'

DCM DK Shivakumar received public backing for the proposed Tunnel Road project during his interaction with citizens. Residents called the Tunnel Road an essential infrastructure to tackle the city's traffic issues. "The Tunnel Road project you've taken up is excellent, sir. New roads are needed to manage Bengaluru's traffic," said a participant. Shivakumar replied, "It's not possible to widen existing roads by demolishing homes or buildings, as compensation costs are very high. Hence, the Tunnel Road project is the right solution."

DCM dines with industry leaders, discusses city infra issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AFTER facing wide criticism from industrialists on Bengaluru's poor infrastructure, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar held a meeting with Biocon founder **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai and others.

Shivakumar, along with Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao and Bengaluru Business Corridor Chairman LK Atheeq, had a dinner meeting on Saturday in which Kiran, Pai and former JDS spokesperson Tanveer Ahmed and others took part. The meeting comes after criticism from Kiran and Pai on issues bothering Bengaluru -- potholes, traffic and garbage, which didn't go down well with Congress ministers who hit back, asking them not to forget their roots and use CSR funds for the city.

Sharing what had transpired at the dinner meet, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw said she had a constructive meeting with the DCM on an action plan to fix the city's key infra bottlenecks, issues on Outer Ring Road and Peripheral Ring Road, drainage, traffic and garbage.

On Sunday, replying to reporters about the dinner meet, Shivakumar said, "I told them that when you criticise Bengaluru, it becomes international news. We discussed many issues — Mohandas Pai, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, and others offered excellent suggestions for the city's development. I won't disclose them, but they're constructive. So I have included them in the main advisory committee. They are taxpayers and citizens of Bengaluru, their voices must be heard. The challenge is that in a democratic setup, working through the bureaucracy takes time — there are many legal frameworks to follow."

7 forest patches to be converted into Tree Parks in B'luru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AN initiative to convert seven major forest lands in Bengaluru city into 'Tree Parks' to protect the existing greenery, will be taken up following discussions with the Forest department, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Sunday, during the last walk of Bengaluru Nadige (Walk with Bengaluru), a public outreach programme, in Cubbon Park.

After listening to public grievances during a citizen interaction session, the Bengaluru Development Minister revealed plans to replicate the Cubbon Park–Lalbagh model in other parts of the city. "After discussions with the Forest department, we will develop urban parks and establish 'Tree Parks' across Bengaluru in seven spots on forest department lands. No trees will be cut here; this will also aid forest conservation. I have already announced Rs 10 crore for the development of Lalbagh," he said.

"Cubbon Park and Lalbagh are the pride of Karnataka and the country. A grant of Rs 5 crore will be provided by BDA for the development of Cubbon Park," announced DCM. "As many have requested funds for the park's upgradation, the remaining funds will be released through the horticulture department. The government will not allow any kind of construction inside this park. We will only take measures necessary for its protection."

"We will take all steps to preserve the lung space of the city. High-tech cameras will be installed to record who enters and exits the park, and at what time. I've instructed that this footage be accessible from the Police Commissioner's office," Shivakumar said, adding that the government will also consider organising select cultural programmes in the park.

At the culmination of the six scheduled walks, the minister said citizens from various localities submitted a total of 379 grievances – 50 at Lalbagh, 68 at JP Park, 99 at KR Puram, 42 at Koramangala, 85 at Kengeri, and 35 in Cubbon Park. He said he would continue the programme whenever possible.

On Namma Metro's Red Line, he told reporters, "The Union government has not yet approved the Red Line Metro. BMRCL has prepared a revised DPR. The Metro must expand for public convenience, and we must also plan a double-decker route. The Union minister is visiting Bengaluru on October 30, and I will submit an appeal. The Centre is contributing about 12-13%, and we are bearing the rest," he said.

LARGE LANDINGS

KIA's North runway becomes Code F-compliant

ANUBHAB ROY @ Bengaluru

THE North runway (09L/27R) of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been upgraded to support Code F operations, which will allow the largest of aircraft to land on it, with the South runway (09R/27L) having been certified for Code F in December 2019. While the North runway was made Code F-compliant in September, regulatory briefs indicated certain operational restrictions for Code F arrivals on the runway, leading to the recent upgrade.

Interestingly, KIA is the only airport in South India to operate independent parallel runways, enabling takeoffs and landings to occur simultaneously. "With both runways capable of handling the largest aircraft (possible), the airport can maintain full operational capacity even when one runway is closed for maintenance, thereby reducing disruptions, avoiding declines in throughput, and safeguarding slot commitments," a BIAL spokesperson said.

The upgrade should allow for more smooth operations, especially in conditions that lead to heavy air traffic, such as unfavourable weather. "Having both runways rated for the largest aircraft means the ATC can distribute traffic more evenly, reduce dependency on a single runway during peak or low-visibility periods, and manage maintenance windows more proactively without operational penalties," the spokesperson added.

BLOCKED!

Pedestrians gasp for precious seconds on zebra crossings

ANUBHAB ROY @ Bengaluru

BETWEEN the congestion of vehicular traffic in Bengaluru, pedestrians have little claim to the roads, or even footpaths. Moreover, even zebra crossings – the sanctioned spaces that are supposed to allow pedestrians to cross roads – seem to be beyond the median pedestrians' claim. Vehicles are often seen illegally occupying zebra crossings across the city when stationary, exposing those on foot to hazards and accidents.

This phenomenon is neither new nor restricted to any specific area; commuters and pedestrians must have witnessed on multiple occasions vehicles moving beyond the stop line, onto the zebra crossing, or even beyond it. Traffic expert Prof MN Sreehari believes that two-wheelers are mostly to blame.

"All vehicles are supposed to stop before the stop line. Unfortunately, two-wheelers go beyond it. The cameras set up (by the Bengaluru Traffic Police) try to capture the licence plates and book offenders." Even when zebra crossings are free, most run on a 10-second timer, in which window pedestrians must cross the road. While this might come across as adequate on some roads, it is a far cry on wider roads. Sreehari claims that this is enough, revealing that a walking speed of 10 kmph is taken into account while ascertaining the time limit. The average walking speed of an adult human does not exceed 5 kmph, which does not account for children and the elderly, who are considerably slower. Far slower on average, of course, would be people with disabilities. The problem is compounded when vehicles, not adhering to traffic lights, further eat into this small window.

Two policemen on a bike seen obstructing a zebra crossing on Infantry Road

This is not all. Many intersections, including the busy Ejipura Signal intersection between the Intermediate Ring Road and Wind Tunnel Road, have no zebra crossing at all. People are supposed to simply move with vehicular traffic, which again, notoriously defies the traffic lights, despite traffic police personnel deployed there, most of the time.

Admitting that he was unaware of this, DCP, Traffic (North), Jayaprakash, mentioned that he would look at the proper procedure about implementing a zebra crossing at the intersection. About vehicles flouting rules at the junction, he reiterated that he "would look into it".

EXPRESS READ

Bangalore Centre of the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India) gets new chairperson

BENGALURU: Savina Thirthahalli has been elected as Chairperson of the Bangalore Centre of the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India). With Thirthahalli being in charge, Aniruddh SB and R Venkatesh Babu have taken over as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Thirthahalli brings with him 22 years of civil engineering experience, and he is tenured to head the organisation for two years. His experience includes working at a host of MNCs for 17 years, before establishing his own firm in Bengaluru, five years ago.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

27th October : Primal Drive; Mars and Jupiter Trine Our drives don't always seem particularly helpful to us. Cravings can overshoot, expectations can disappoint, and fear can paralyze. And yet, these are the very same primal drives that kept humans alive through the ages. Try not to punish yourself or think less of yourself for being vulnerable to the instincts that keep you moving and connecting.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You'll have an audience. Whether you perform for one person or a thousand, your aim is the same -- to be your best. And actually, in the end, scale doesn't matter. The effort will be identical.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
When people feel judged, they instinctively pull away. And when you judge yourself, it's the same. Part of you pulls away from yourself, leaving you feeling torn and lonely. But when you stop grading and scoring, tension dissolves. Connection is possible again.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Someone else might dismiss a minor opportunity, but not you. You treat the small stage like the main event. A few attendants, a casual conversation, even a walk down the street can be a chance to show the world your vitality.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
You put more thought into things than the others do, treating little opportunities with the same focus you'd give a "big break." You practice as if the rehearsal were the performance. Because you make the most of small moments, you're given bigger ones.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Today you'll be like the butterfly whose style is to travel lightly. You switch directions quickly, notice more, and enjoy movement itself. It keeps you from overinvesting or wasting energy on grudges or drama.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Like the sugar high of candy, what's immediately pleasurable isn't always the healthiest. What's good, like exercise, often requires discomfort. Knowing what you want? Not a problem. Wanting what's good for you? That's harder, if only because you're human.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
It is never possible to fully know a person, but as long as you keep paying attention, that counts for a lot. Stay present and curious, avoiding assumptions based on yesterday because no one wants to be trapped in past versions of themselves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Your imagination does two jobs at once today. It soothes you with comforting daydreams to buffer you from harsh realities and it sparks you with exciting ideas to propel you toward creating a better reality for you and yours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
The day features an invigorating background noise. The chatter, the movement, the people around you working just like you are -- they contribute to a sense that you and all the other spokes in the wheel are rolling into the future together.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
A balance is struck today. It's not the kind of perfect equilibrium that lasts forever, but a sweet moment of harmony that reminds you that calm is possible, peace is a place that waits for you, and love lives in you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Sometimes it feels like others just don't care about the same things you care about. Whether it's true or not, it's out of your control. Your passion is what matters. You'll fight indifference with small rebellions like kindness, art and beauty.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
You've been steadily improving a situation and it shows. Others may not notice every little adjustment, but the cumulative effect is undeniable. Your knack for refinement will be a source of pride and not just your own.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

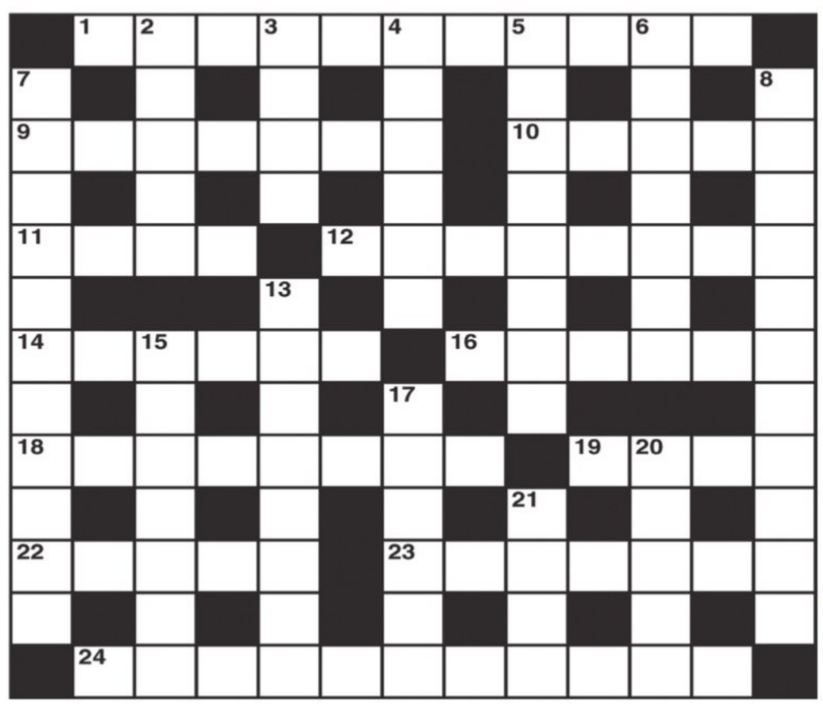
					5	3		
3					8	5		6
5	4		3	7		8	2	
	5	8	6					
		7	4	5	3	2		
					9	7	6	
	2	5		6	4		8	3
4		9	8					7
		3	5					

9	3	7	4	2	5	6	8	1
5	1	8	9	6	7	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	1	3	7	9	5
6	5	4	3	7	8	2	1	9
8	7	1	2	4	9	5	3	6
2	9	3	1	5	6	8	7	4
1	8	2	6	9	4	3	5	7
7	4	9	5	3	2	1	6	8
3	6	5	7	8	1	9	4	2

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Teenagers wanting share in rises (11)
9 Drastic means to get the rent (7)
10 Time to muse (5)
11 Set a new course perhaps (4)
12 Love isn't unusual as the theme for this writer (8)
14 Show indifference in course taking about a year (6)
16 Master switch produces the current (6)
18 Barely beat the opposition (8)
19 Initial description of sudden rise and descent (4)
22 A trimming of lace one gathers (5)
23 All-inclusive cover for retirement (7)
24 Capacity of certain chaps in the new team (11)

DOWN
2 Drugs quietly injected into rabbits (5)
3 Female make-up oils (4)
4 Nominally commit oneself to work? (4,2)
5 First principles of meteorology (8)
6 Steam whistle stop? (3,4)
7 Priceless stonework found in lodges (11)
8 Look at and study the working pattern (11)
13 Put up with the closed shop (8)
15 A form of tact he shows as a diplomat (7)
17 Row about Dr Wood (6)
20 Captured and shot (5)
21 A tree for future scrutiny perhaps (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Endive, 4 Classics, 9 Encash, 10 Two-times, 12 Liam, 13 Pi-dog, 14 Etui, 17 Feel strongly, 20 Compare notes, 23 Heel, 24 Repel, 25 Oral, 28 Stroller, 29 Resist, 30 Enervate, 31 Jogged.

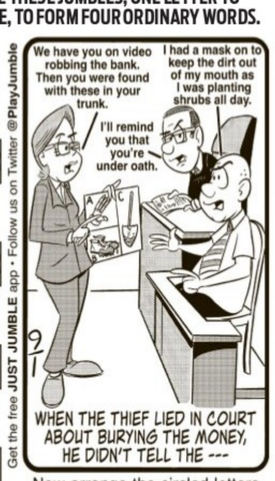
Down: 1 Eyes left, 2 Declared, 3 Visa, 5 Low Countries, 6 Site, 7 Inmate, 8 Siskin, 11 Misrepresent, 15 Estop, 16 Clone, 18 Starting, 19 Isolated, 21 Chaste, 22 George, 26 Slav, 27 Hero.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

HNOMT
GUDEN
TETHRO
RDYLAH


We have you on video robbing the bank. Then you were found with these in your trunk.
I had a mask on to keep the dirt out of my mouth as I was planting shrubs all day.
I'll remind you that you're under oath.
WHEN THE THIEF LIED IN COURT ABOUT BURYING THE MONEY, HE DIDN'T TELL THE ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GULCH GAUZE FLOPPY CASHEW
Answer: Compared to other birds, when it comes to resting, the flamingo — HAS A LEG UP

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

03 BENGALURU | MONDAY 27.10.2025 | newindianexpress.com

The Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA) celebrated its silver jubilee by organising a cricket league and a free health camp on Sunday at Dr BR Ambedkar Stadium, Basaveshwaranagar. Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya and Govindarajanagar MLA Priya Krishna inaugurated the event

GST
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GST relief for beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana (Urban)
in addition to assistance of up to ₹2.5 lakh
Cement
SAVINGS OF ₹30 PER CEMENT BAG
SAVINGS OF UP TO ₹600 ON SAND-LIME BRICKS WORTH ₹10,000
भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT
CBC15502/13/0043/2526

PIOUS MARCH

Members of the Sikh community take out Nagar Kirtan on Prakash Purab of their first guru Guru Nanak Dev in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Mobile explodes, lands diabetic teen in hosp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 19-year-old diabetic youngster narrowly escaped a life-threatening situation after his mobile phone exploded at home, leaving him unconscious with burns on his right hand, and signs of inhalation injury in Bengaluru. The teenager was rushed to hospital, where doctors found that he had also developed Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA), a severe metabolic complication triggered by the trauma, and was treated.

A multidisciplinary team of specialists from critical care, emergency medicine, orthopaedics and plastic surgery at SPARSH Hospital, Infantry Road, worked in close coordination to stabilise him. According to doctors, the combination of electrical burns, lung injury and metabolic imbalance made the case particularly complex. The foremost challenge before the team was to save the affected limb, manage the diabetes-induced metabolic crisis, and treat his compromised lung function.

"This was a complex case where multiple systems were affected simultaneously by electrical burns -- lung injury due to inhalation and metabolic imbalance from diabetes," said Dr Hemant HR, Senior Consultant and Head, Critical Care Medicine, at SPARSH Hospital. "Early recognition of the diabetic emergency and prompt intensive care were crucial in preventing organ damage."

Doctors initially feared the boy might develop compartment syndrome, a condition that can cause permanent muscle and nerve damage, but timely intervention helped avert surgery. MRI scans later showed pressure on major nerves in his injured hand, explaining temporary immobility. The patient also received psychological counselling to manage post-traumatic stress and began physiotherapy during recovery.

After weeks of intensive care and rehabilitation, the teenager was discharged in a stable condition. Doctors said his nerve function is expected to gradually improve with continued physiotherapy and nutrition support. The case underscores the potential dangers of electronic device mishandling and the importance of swift, coordinated medical intervention in trauma emergencies, a press release stated.

EXPRESS READ

GP member shot at, cops suspect rivalry

BENGALURU: Two unidentified miscreants opened fire at a Gram Panchayat member near Islampura in Nelamangala taluk, on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Sunday evening. According to police, Saleem, a member of Kannegowdanahalli GP in Nelamangala, was standing near his house talking to someone, when two unidentified bike-borne men shot at him and sped away. Saleem sustained injuries on his hand and he was rushed to hospital for treatment. His condition is out of danger. The police said the victim's statement has been recorded, and CCTV footage from the surrounding areas is being analysed. The police are investigating from all angles, while suspecting personal enmity or an old rivalry to be the reason for the attack. A case has been registered in the Nelamangala Rural police station.

2 die as container truck overturns, trapping them

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICES @ Bengaluru

TWO men died and four others were injured after a speeding container truck they were travelling in overturned, while taking a turn. The incident occurred near Uraganadoddi Road in the Jigani police station limits on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Sunday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Srinivas (26), the truck driver, who hailed from Andhra Pradesh, and Shreeman (25), a cable drilling machine operator, who came from Jharkhand. The four injured labourers are being treated.

The police said that around 11.45 am, the container truck, which was carrying heavy road-cable drilling machinery, was heading to Harohalli from Bommasandra with five labourers for work. Srinivas, who was driving fast, lost control of the vehicle near a turn on Uraganadoddi Road, causing it to overturn. The impact left all six occupants injured, while Srinivas and Shreeman were trapped under the container and died on the spot.

The four others, who sustained critical injuries, were rushed to a nearby hospital. A case has been registered.

4 held for smuggling white sandalwood worth ₹1.12 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Siddapura police have arrested four men for allegedly smuggling white sandalwood from Andhra Pradesh to Bengaluru, and seized 750 kg of the precious wood valued at Rs 1.12 crore. The accused were transporting the contraband in a pickup truck, concealing the logs under sacks of onion.

The arrested have been identified as Sheik Abdul Kalam (47), Sheik Shahrukh (31), Paramesh (30), and D Ram Bhupal (40), all hailing from Andhra Pradesh.

Police were tipped off about the smuggling attempt, and intercepted an AP-registered pickup truck and a Delhi-registered SUV near Someshwara Arch in Jayanagar 1st Block on the night of October 16. The pickup was found to be carrying onions. Upon inspection, around 258 pieces of white sandalwood logs were found concealed inside sacks placed under the onions. In total, 750 kg of white sandalwood, worth Rs 1.12 crore, were seized. The four accused were taken into custody.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the sandalwood was being brought from the forests of Kurnool in AP, to Bengaluru. Paramesh and Bhupal were driving the two vehicles, while the other two were involved in the trade. They told police that they were transporting the contraband on the instructions of a man named Siraj, also from AP, to deliver to Ravi Kumar in Bengaluru.

Police said efforts are on to trace both Siraj and Ravi Kumar. The four accused have been booked under the Karnataka Forest Act and other sections of the BNS, and remanded in judicial custody.

DSPL-327
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
ICOMC Tower, Infront of Satya Nagar Kali Temple on Janpath, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Expression of Interest (EOI)
Development of 1.78 Acre of prime land parcel (Public and semi public use) in Chandrasekharpur, currently used as Kalyan Mandap.
The detailed Expression of Interest (EoI) document can be downloaded from BMC website: www.bmc.gov.in from 10.00 AM of 27.10.2025 to 04.00 PM of 11.11.2025
Pre Proposal Meeting
• Date : 01/11/2025
• Time : 1500 hrs (3 pm)
• Venue : 4th Floor, Conference Room, BMC Office
Why invest in Bhubaneswar?
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Widespread Connectivity
Booming Real Estate
Gateway to Eastern India
Why Chandrasekharpur Land ?
Prime Location
IT & Startup Hub
Booming Commercial Activities
Education Hub
Prominent Medical Institutions
OIPR- 13002/13/0247/2526

Woman found dead in homestay

ENS @ Chikkamagaluru

A 27-year-old woman from Bengaluru was found dead under suspicious circumstances at a homestay in Handi village in Kasaba taluk on Saturday. The deceased, Ranjitha, was from Devalapura village in Belur taluk.

According to police, Ranjitha had travelled from Bengaluru with her friend, Rekha, on Friday evening to attend another friend's engagement. The two were staying at Hipla Homestay. The incident came to light in the morning when Rekha, grew concerned when Ranjitha did not emerge from the bathroom for long. She looked through a window and found Ranjitha lying unconscious on the floor. The police have launched an investigation.

2 held for killing domestic worker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Tilak Nagar police have arrested two men for allegedly killing a 35-year-old woman, after suspecting her of having an affair. The victim's body was found wrapped in a blanket and left inside an abandoned autorickshaw near D-Mart in LIC Colony, close to Tilak Nagar police station, on Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Subramanya (30), a plumber, and his friend, Senthil (25), a mason. The deceased has been identified as **Salma**, a domestic worker and widow with four children. Her husband had died about a year ago. All are residents of Ragi Gudda slum in Tilak Nagar.

According to police, Salma was in an illicit relationship with both the accused. On Friday night, she went to Subramanya's house, where Senthil was also there, and the trio consumed alcohol. The two accused suspected that she was having another affair, as she was talking on the phone. An argument broke out around 10.30 pm, during which Subramanya allegedly struck Salma on the head with a wooden stick, multiple times. She died on the spot due to severe head injuries. Around 1 am, the accused wrapped her body in a blanket and placed it in an abandoned autorickshaw, about 500 metres away from their house, before fleeing the scene. Around 5 pm on Saturday, a local resident noticed the body inside the autorickshaw and alerted the police.

Based on a complaint filed by the deceased's mother, a case of murder was registered. After analysing CCTV footage and technical evidence, the police arrested the two accused on Sunday. Further investigations are on.

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बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
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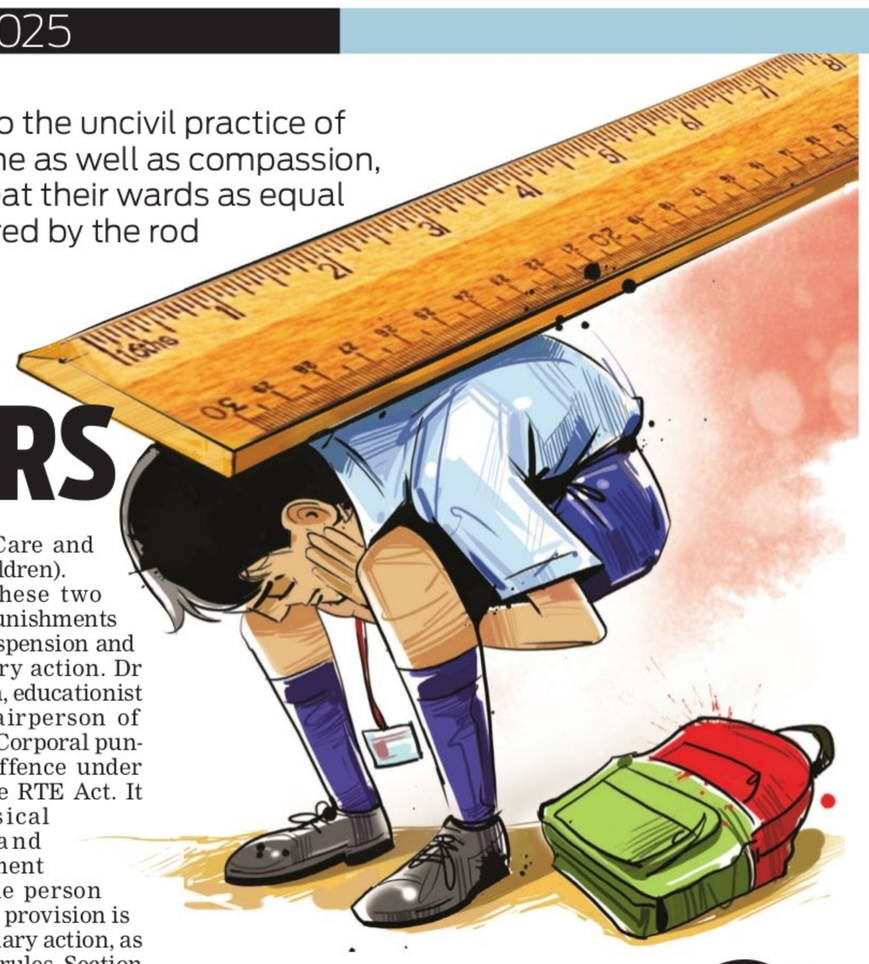
The expansion and reshuffle of the cabinet is Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's prerogative, said Law Minister HK Patil. He said that there is a practice of expanding and reshuffling the cabinet after discussing it with the Congress high command by the CM

Strict implementation of laws alone will not bring an end to the uncivil practice of corporal punishment in schools. Students deserve discipline as well as compassion, and it is time teachers turn over a new leaf and begin to treat their wards as equal partners in education to mould a young generation unscarred by the rod

SPARE THE CHILD, SAVE OUR TEACHERS



RASHMI PATIL @ Bengaluru

ON October 14, a nine-year-old boy was beaten with a PVC pipe for being absent from school for two days. The boy's mother filed a police complaint against the school principal for the offence. He was booked under Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, causing hurt by dangerous weapons, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 118(1) and criminal intimidation, BNS 351(2).

In another incident in Chitradurga, a teacher hit and kicked a nine-year-old in a school run by the local temple management. When a video of the incident went viral on social media, the teacher was booked under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, and various sections of BNS including 115(2), 126(2) and 351(2).

In both instances, the accused would be punished as per law, but how would one heal children who have been scarred by the brutal lashings? Child rights activists, officials and parents say that very few incidents of corporal punishments come to light. Many cases are not reported by parents and children for various reasons, including lack of awareness about child rights. Sometimes, such incidents are hushed up with the collusion of teachers and principals, and in rural areas, even village elders step in to keep the lid on.

Naganna Gowda, former chairperson, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), says: "There are teachers who act like animals, without understanding the psychology of children. When such incidents take place, children fear going to school and tend to remain absent, which impacts their exam results. Corporal punishment not only include beating or hitting a child, it also includes mental harassment through harsh words.

"Last year, in Mysuru, a private CBSE school had not provided exam hall ticket to a child for not paying school fee. When it was brought to our notice, we approached the school and the CBSE Board chairman in Delhi. Later, the boy was given the hall ticket and he wrote the exams. We have always told schools that the issue of fee payment must be solved with parents and not to bring children into this issue."

He adds: "Schools must do a background verification of candidates before appointing them as teachers. They must check if the person has any FIRs or police complaints for abusing a child verbally, hitting or sexual harassment."

Meanwhile, Dr Vasudev Sharma, Executive Director and Trustee, Child Rights Trust, an NGO, noted that a lot of corporal punishment cases do not come to light. He says, "In many cases, when parents go to school and complain to the principal, they are asked to downplay the incident. Either they warn teachers or promise to bear the child's medical expenses. In the case of the Chitradurga temple school, the teacher knew a video was being shot but he continued to hit the child. It was mainly to create fear among other children by showing these videos. He wouldn't have expected the video to be leaked."

Sharma says the mindset of teachers and parents must change. "They believe children can be taught only by punishment. Even teachers must be counselled or given time to unwind. This will prevent corporal punishment in schools."

How the law works

As per educationists and child rights activists, there are two important laws in India to deal with the accused involved in corporal punishment, including Section 17 of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (Care and protection of children).

Apart from these two laws, common punishments include fines, suspension and other disciplinary action. Dr Niranjanaradhya, educationist and former chairperson of KSCPCR, says, "Corporal punishment is an offence under Section 17 of the RTE Act. It prohibits physical punishment and mental harassment of children. The person who violates this provision is liable to disciplinary action, as per their service rules. Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 (Care and protection of children) penalises cruelty of a person towards children, including teachers."

He adds, "As per the JJ Act, all childcare institutions must be registered, and includes educational institutions and residential facilities. But many residential schools are isolated, and when incidents of corporal punishment take place, they don't come to light."

Niranjan said that madrasas and religious teaching institutions do not come under the scope of RTE Act and JJ Act. He says, "Since they don't come under the RTE Act, Block Education Officers don't visit or inspect the schools. Similarly, District Child Protection Officers don't keep a tab on them as they don't come under the scope of JJ Act. Therefore, these incidents go unreported in such institutions. The Chitradurga temple school incident can be counted as one such example."

Dr KT Thippeswamy, member of KSCPCR, agreed with this lacuna in law due to which many incidents go unnoticed in temple schools and madrasas. He says, "While laws are in place, schools and various institutions must create awareness about it among children. The Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) makes sure to train teachers with the help of master trainers about the RTE Act, JJ Act and corporal punishment. Teachers also study child psychology, classroom techniques, constructive learning modules, child-centric education etc when they pursue BEd and DEd."

Work pressure

Bhagya Lakshmi, a retired teacher from a government high school in Anjanapura in Bengaluru, said work pressure creates mental stress for teachers. "Apart from teaching children, teachers have other work which adds to the pressure. Earlier, there was a mindset that children learn to be disciplined only when teachers beat them. Now, it has evolved as it impacts them mentally and not just physically. Usually, teachers hit students when they fail to do their homework, remain absent and disturb during classes. I have also noticed that children become stubborn when we hit them to discipline them. Therefore, they must be informed softly."

She adds, "Teachers must also consider the background of students. Some come from a poor background who go out for work after school hours. Sometimes, when parents are unwell, they have to do all the domestic chores. In such cases, they might not get enough time to complete their homework. Therefore, teachers should not resort to corporal punishment."

A retired government school teacher in Rantanahalli says, "Work pressure on teachers is very high. These days, BEOs and even the education department put pressure on teachers to get 100 per cent results for SSLC exams. Since there is shortage of teachers in many schools, they have no leisure period, especially in primary classes. Apart from teaching, we need to submit reports on the number of students who have consumed mid-day meals. This data has to be spilt in terms of SC, ST, OBC and other category students. September is celebrated as 'Swachhata Masa', during which various activities are conducted for 15 days in schools. We need to upload these pictures on the portal or the BEO takes action for not conducting these programmes."

She adds, "Work pressure impacts the behaviour of teachers towards children. These days, incidents of corporal punishment have come down in government schools, both in rural and urban areas."

Impact on mental health

Jahnavi Murali, a child psychologist, said corporal punishment has come down compared to what it was 10 years ago. "I have counselled children of various age groups, irrespective of their economic background. Even a slap or pinch can impact children physically and emotionally. But the emotional hurt is always invisible. It might impact children in a way that is irreversible. Such incidents lead to emotional instability, low confidence and self-esteem. As a result, they resort to various coping mechanisms, including self-harm. Teenagers start depending on alcohol and drugs. They turn aggressive and hostile towards their siblings and even friends," she says.

"There is no quick fix for these problems. As it involves change in the mindset of people, I believe it starts with conversation. There are different modules involved in therapy, including play therapy, art as a module and reading story books. When we read story books to them, children verbalise these emotions. For instance, I suggest a children's book called 'Rosie and the Worry Whisperer' by Matthew Cunningham. Children connect to Rosie's worries in this book and often admit that they too go through these feelings, like anxiety, depression, fear and more," Jahnavi adds.

Mallige, a child psychologist, explains: "There is a theory called Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory which explains that human development is shaped by interactions within multiple layers of environment from family, schools, communities and society. This theory is relevant when it comes to shaping a child's behaviour. Corporal punishment, whether at home or school, can impact their behaviour. Teachers must understand that nothing can be achieved by punishing, beating or insulting the child with words."

Meanwhile, Dr John Vijaysagar Kommu, Head of Department, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Nimhans, says cases of corporal punishment in schools have reduced. "The number of corporal punishment cases has reduced to a large extent. However, even when one or two cases are reported, it impacts children mentally, and this impact varies. Some children might be upset for a day or two. When their parents respond promptly, they overcome the situation and move on. Meanwhile, others face issues like anxiety, depression, school attendance drops and they could become slow learners due to lack of concentration, and even develop a dislike for a subject or towards a teacher who hits them. It takes time for parents also to understand why their child is behaving in a certain manner."

What is corporal punishment?

Corporal punishment in schools is the intentional use of physical force to discipline students, which can include hitting, slapping, paddling to punish their misbehaviour. Activists claim that not providing transfer certificate to the child, not giving hall tickets as parents would not have paid school fee, insulting them verbally or even calling a child 'idiot' is corporal punishment.

Cruelty on campus

- **April 2025, Chikkaballapur:** Six-year-old boy lost vision in the right eye after his teacher allegedly hurled a stick at him
- **March 2024, Bengaluru:** A student lost a tooth when a teacher hit him for splashing water on her accidentally during lunch hour, at a private school in Jayanagar
- **December 2022, Gadag:** Boy beaten to death by teacher

BIG PICTURE

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT CASES

Subject	2023-24	2024-25	Regd cases	Resolved	Pending
RTE	8	34	42	9	33
Physical assault	2	7	9	3	6
Violence	22	74	96	20	76
Transfer certificate	12	39	51	25	26

FOR A CAUSE

People participate in a stroke awareness campaign ahead of World Stroke Day (Oct 29) in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

CM confirms cabinet reshuffle, DKS in Delhi to talk of power-sharing pact

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

AS Chief Minister Siddaramaiah revealed at a public meeting in Kittur on Saturday that the high command had given its nod for a cabinet reshuffle 4-5 months ago, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday evening rushed to New Delhi to meet high command leaders.

He may meet the top brass and remind them about the agreement on the post coming to him at the middle of the party's five-year term, which is in November. The agreement is supposed to have been struck in 2023 when the party came to power. Sources, however, said Shivakumar's visit to Delhi is purely personal and has nothing to do with politics.

Shivakumar is taking an appointment with leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on the pretext of inviting him for laying the foundation stone for 100 congress bhavans in Bengaluru on November 20, sources said. If and when he meets Rahul, he will of course bring up political happenings in the state, including Siddaramaiah's MLC-son Dr Yathindra's statement that PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi would be the ideological heir to his father, the sources added.

Though it is yet to be seen whether Rahul would give an appointment to Shivakumar, if the two meet, it would send a wrong signal as Rahul should be focusing on Bihar elections, sources said.

When reporters asked Shivakumar on Sunday morning about his Delhi visit, he shot back, saying, "I will go whenever I have work. I will go every day, I will visit whenever I feel like taking a rest. I will go shopping, on court cases, to meet the media..." But it was the same Shivakumar who had said recently that he would not visit Delhi anytime soon as leaders are busy with the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls.

I will go whenever I have work. I will go every day, I will visit whenever I feel like taking a rest. I will go shopping, on court cases, to meet media - **Deputy CM DK Shivakumar**

Shivakumar said, "We are setting up 100 Congress bhavans to mark 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi leading the freedom struggle. Rahul Gandhi will come one day and lay the foundation stone. The date may be fixed after the Bihar elections."

Shivakumar is being forced to visit Delhi as the Siddaramaiah camp is repeatedly making statements about leadership, sources said. Shivakumar wants to send out a message to his followers on his clout by meeting high command leaders in Delhi, they added.

There is a sense within Congress that if Siddaramaiah goes ahead with the cabinet reshuffle, it would put an end Shivakumar's aspirations of assuming the Chief Minister's post in this term of the party. Siddaramaiah's associate and former minister KN Rajanna said in Tumakuru on Sunday that if a reshuffle happens, Siddaramaiah will continue as Chief Minister for five years.

'Vote chori' data of Bangalore Central to be sent to EC: Dinesh Gundu Rao

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

HEALTH Minister and senior Congress leader Dinesh Gundu Rao alleged that if there was no 'vote chori' in Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency polls, a Congress MP would have been elected from here.

Dinesh alleged there are 11,200 fake voters in Gandhinagar assembly constituency alone. He was speaking after inaugurating a signature campaign against 'vote chori'. He said though a complaint about fake voters were filed before the Election Commission of India, no action was taken. Why is the EC delaying the deletion process, he asked.

Rao said people should question BJP for creating fake voters in Mahadevapura assembly constituency and winning the polls. This is nothing but killing democracy, and BJP has made the Election Commission its puppet. He said a signature campaign is going on across the country and the target is one lakh signatures from Gandhinagar assembly constituency. This will be sent to the Election Commission.

'Will step down if told to, party supreme'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CLOSE on the heels of Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda stating on Saturday that he is ready to step down as minister to make way for others in the party if Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reshuffles his cabinet, RDPR and IT/BT Minister **Priyank Kharge** spoke on the same lines on Sunday.

Priyank, son of AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge, told reporters that everybody, including ministers, should adhere to the instructions of the high command. "I was a minister twice but the party gave me the responsibility of handling social media as it felt I am well-versed in it," he said.

Senior MLAs, including ministers, said everyone should do what the party says, and step into the party's organisation to follow orders. "Party is inevitable for us but we are not inevitable for the party," he stated.

"We need the party to get B-Form to contest polls, need leaders to win polls and the high command to intervene for additional grants for the development of constituencies. Can we say no when the party asks us to engage in organisational activities? Whether it's me, Dinesh Gundurao or Krishna Byre Gowda, we should adhere to what the party says," he said.

On the power transfer issue and Yathindra's statement that Siddaramaiah will continue as CM for five years, Priyank said the high command will take a call on it. "It doesn't make a difference whether I or Yathindra speak before the media," he quipped.

In a coordinated effort by the fire brigade, State Disaster Response Force, police, and local residents, the body of an 18-year-old youth, who drowned in the Malaprabha River near Khanapur on Sunday was recovered. The victim, Prathamesh Ravindra Patil from Lokoli village, had gone missing on Friday while swimming in the river. The incident occurred due to a sudden rise in water levels

KURNOOL AFTERMATH

Buses must have emergency exits, says Ramalinga

No one must sleep in luggage bays: Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING the recent bus fire tragedy in Kurnool, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Sunday directed all state road transport corporations — including KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC — to prohibit flammable/explosive cargo, prevent sleeping in luggage bays, and ensure emergency exits and window-breaking mechanisms are in place.

Reddy also stressed that any violations or negligence in the matter will attract strict action, emphasising that passenger safety is the government's top priority, while conducting comprehensive safety audits of fleets.

He also highlighted that during his earlier tenure as transport minister, a fire broke out on a Jabbar Travels bus near Haveri, resulting in passenger casualties. Following that incident, he had launched a campaign to ensure emergency exit doors were installed and functional across around 50,000 vehicles, including state-run, contract, private tourist, vans, and school buses.

The directive emphasises strict adherence to safety measures, including preventing the carriage of flammable or explosive goods, ensuring emergency window-breaking tools in all AC buses, and prohibiting passengers from sleeping in luggage compartments. Fleet modernisation and maintenance checks are also to be reviewed.

Reddy warned that any negligence discovered during audits will attract strict action. "Passenger safety is paramount. Any loss of life is unacceptable," he said, instructing the immediate formation of audit teams to enforce compliance.

Over 8,000 women duped of crores in Belagavi

SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

IN the name of giving 'work from home job' for women, a man from Maharashtra has cheated over 8,000 women in Belagavi for over Rs 12 crore and has now fled from his rented home and office from Belagavi. The women who realised of being cheated lately are now approaching the police for action. Shockingly, some influential women also got cheated by investing lakhs in this fraudulent scheme.

On Sunday, a group of women approached the city Police Commissioner alleging that they were duped by a man—reportedly based in Solapur—who told them they would earn money by packing agarbatti (incense sticks). The accused, who introduced himself as Ajay Patil collected between Rs 2,500 and Rs 5,000 from each woman to create one ID and required each recruit to connect two more persons under a chain-marketing system. But, it is said that his true name is **Babasaheb Kolekar** who hails from Solapur.

Victims say the scheme operated on the familiar multi-level/chain-marketing model and targeted women groups such as self-help groups. Each woman paid an upfront fee of Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000 as rent amount of auto rikshaw to deliver the incense sticks to home, which the women had to pack and return back. They were told that they will earn Rs 2,500 each month by packing these incense sticks, sitting at home. Women were also lured that their earnings would increase by enrolling others. When promised returns failed to materialise, a growing number of women demanded answers and organised to approach authorities.

Laxmi Kamble, one of the women who got cheated in this scam, said "My husband expired recently. I came to know about this ponzi scheme from other women, when I needed some 'Work from Home' job to make bread and butter for my family. Many women got enrolled in this scheme due to mouth-to-mouth publicity. The police commissioner should take this case seriously, arrest the accused who fled to Maharashtra and help to return our money," she said.

Govind Lamani, an auto driver said, "The head of this scheme, had hired around six to seven autos to supply the incense sticks home-to-home of the women. Even my wife was cheated by investing Rs 20,000 cash.

FURRY FRIENDS

A girl plays with a dog at Championship Dog Show organised by the Canine Club of Mysuru, on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

VILLAGERS SAY THEY SEE TIGER REGULARLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Learning about the incident, HD Kote MLA Anil Chikkamadu rushed to the spot, consoled the bereaved family, and assured them of government compensation. But the situation turned tense as angry villagers confronted him, accusing the government and forest officials of negligence. They alleged that despite repeated complaints and tiger sightings in the area, no action was taken. "Though Mullur village is far from the forest, a tiger entered the village and killed a farmer. But officials arrived only hours after the incident," they said.

Wildlife activist Joseph Hoover said, "A 55-year-old farmer, Rajashekar from Mullur Hundi near the Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary under the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, was killed by a tiger. Another farmer was seriously injured in a tiger attack near the same sanctuary. Two tigers were captured from the Hediyala and Nugu areas last week and shifted to the Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre."

On October 16, a 35-year-old farmer, Mahadeva Gowda, was critically injured in a tiger attack in Sargur taluk. Mahadeva was harvesting cotton in his field near Badagalapura village, close to Nugu Dam, when the tiger pounced on him, leaving him with grievous facial injuries. He is still undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospital. Forest officials had then launched a combing operation and captured a three-year-old tigress suspected to have carried out the attack.

Forester officials have decided to launch a massive combing operation in the region from Monday to trace and capture the tiger that killed the farmer.

TAKE FIRM STEPS TO CAPTURE TIGER, SAYS KHANDRE

Mysuru: Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre expressed deep sorrow over the death of a farmer who was killed by a tiger at Mullur village in Saragur taluk of Mysuru district on Sunday. Expressing concern over the rising number of tiger attacks, Khandre urged cattle grazers, residents of villages bordering forests and plantation workers to exercise extra caution whenever there are reports of wild animal movement, including tige-rs, leopards and elephants. ENS

2 cousins drown while saving boy from Varuna canal

ENS @Mysuru

IN a heartbreaking tragedy that has left an entire village in tears, two young cousins lost their lives while selflessly trying to save another from drowning in the Varuna canal near Badagalahundi village on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Nandan (25), son of Ramesh, and Rakesh (20), son of Ramesh's brother both from Badagalahundi. According to eyewitnesses, Manju had gone for a swim in the canal when he suddenly began struggling against the strong current.

Nandan and Rakesh, who were passing by carrying fertiliser along the canal's edge, noticed the boy flailing helplessly in the water. Without a moment's hesitation, the duo jumped into the canal in an act of courage, determined to save the young life before their eyes. Their brave intervention worked as the boy was pulled to safety. But, the cousins who risked everything to rescue him, were themselves swept away by the powerful current. Despite desperate efforts by locals to retrieve them, the two could not be saved. Nandan had married just 15 days ago, to a young woman with whom he was in love. Police from Varuna Station registered a case.

EXPRESS READ

DRSRCISH celebrates 48th Founder's Day

Bengaluru: The Dr SR Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing (DRSRCISH) celebrated its 48th Founder's Day, along with the Dr SRC Memorial Award Ceremony, Donors Meeting, and Graduation Day, here on October 23. Energy Minister KJ George graced the event as the Chief Guest, with professor Dr S Chandrashekar Shetty, ex-VC of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), as the Guest of Honour, and Dr Bhagavan BC, V-C of RGUHS, delivered the keynote address. The programme was presided over by Lion VV Krishna Reddy, International Director (2010-12), Lions Clubs International and Chairman & Director, DRSRCISH; and chairman, Bangalore Speech and Hearing Trust. He expressed gratitude to all donors, well-wishers, and alumni. He highlighted the institute's ongoing projects and future goals in enhancing services for persons with communication disorders. ENS

ISRO set to launch CMS-03 satellite on Nov 2

Bengaluru: Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) is scheduled to launch the CMS-03 communication satellite on its fifth operational flight (LVM3-M5) on November 2. CMS-03 is set to provide services over a wide oceanic region that includes the Indian landmass. Weighing about 4,400 kg, the satellite will be the heaviest communication satellite to be launched to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from India. The launch vehicle has been fully assembled and integrated with the spacecraft and was moved to the launchpad on Sunday (October 26) for further pre-launch operations. The previous mission of LVM3 was the launch of Chandrayaan-3, which made India the first country to land successfully near the South Pole of the moon. ENS

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SURESH KUMAR JAIN**, aged about 62 Year S/o Chittar Malji, residing at No.11, Omkar Nagar 1st Cross, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore- 560078, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:-
I hereby declare that I am the sole and absolute owner of the Property bearing residential vacant Site No. 208, Khatha No. 105, Survey No. 18-3, situated at Vajarahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore District.
I hereby declare that said Original above said Original Sale deed misplaced / lost while transit in Jayanagar 4th Block, Bangalore, even after thorough search I was not able to locate the same. In this behalf I have lodged online police complaint vide Serial No.1750773 Lost Report No.1750773/2025 dated 13-08-2025.
I have sworn this Affidavit to submit the same to the concerned, Authorities.
What is stated above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and information.
ARAVIND PATIL G.G. B.A., LL.B
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
#28, 12th Main, Near Old Sub Register Office
4th Block, Jayanagar Bengaluru-540 011

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-63)
F.D.P No. 56/2023
BETWEEN : **SMT. SUMA GANESH**, Wife of Ganesh Srinivasan, Daughter of Late. G.L. Gopinath, Aged about 49 Years, Residing at No.55, Portman St, Caledon, Canada - L7C4E4
...PETITIONER
AND : **SMT. UMA PRADEEP**, Wife of T.P. Pradeep, Daughter of Late. G.L. Gopinath, Aged about 50 Years, Residing at Flat No.MF-3/4, 'C' Block, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru - 560 096.
...RESPONDENT
SUMMONS TO JUDGMENT DEBTOR UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20(1) (A) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE:
SMT. UMA PRADEEP, Wife of T.P. Pradeep, Daughter of Late. G.L. Gopinath, Aged about 50 Years, Residing at Flat No.MF-3/4, 'C' Block, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru - 560 096.
Whereas, in the above Final Decree Procedings filed by the Petitioner for Execution of the Decree Passed in O.S. No. 893/2017 dated 21.10.2022.
Take notice that the above named Judgment Debtor in the above Petition is hereby Notice to appear before this Hon'ble Court **on 20.11.2025 at 11:00 AM** either in person or through an advocate failing which the Petition will be decided ex-parte against them.
SCHEDULE PROPERTIES
SCHEDULE - A PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being residential site bearing No.562, situated at 10th Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 40 in all measuring 1600 square feet, together with building consisting of stilt, ground, first, and second floor in all measuring approximately 3800 square feet and bounded on: East by: Site No.563; West by: Banashankari Layout II Stage; North by: Site No. 561; South by: Road.
SCHEDULE - B PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being residential site bearing No.5-995, Katha No.1210, measuring East to West 9.15 meters and North to South 12.20 meters, in all measuring 111.63 square meters, situated at in the layout plan approved by BDA in Survey. Nos. 63/3, 67/2, 67, 68, 69/1, 69/2, 70/3, 70/4, 70/6, 71/1, 71/1P, 72/2, 72/3, 72/4, 72/5, 73/2, 73/4, 74, 75, 76, 176 and 178 of Herohalli Village, (Magadi Road), Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk and bounded on:- East by: Site No.1028; West by: 40 road; North by: Site No. 996; South by: Site No.994
SCHEDULE - C PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being residential site bearing No.186, carved out of SY.No.82/2 of Thanisandra Village, 14th Block, Arkavathi Layout, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 24 meters and North to South 15 meters, in all measuring 360 square meters and bounded on:- East by: Site No.563; West by: Banashankari Layout II stage; North by: Site No.561; South by: Road.
My hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court this the 17th day of October 2025
BY ORDER OF THE COURT, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Decree Holder
CSP ASSOCIATES, Advocates,
No.4/5-1, 1st Floor, Crescent Road,
High Grounds, Bengaluru - 560001.
Ph: 9535257535

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda | **Zonal Office: Mangalore**
Vijaya Towers, 2nd Floor,
MSRS Road, Mangalore -575003.
TENDER NOTICE
Bank of Baroda, Mangalore Zone invites sealed tenders in **Two Bid System** for **Renovation works (Civil, Interior, Electrical and AC Works)** from eligible Contractors at **K M Marg Branch (Phygital Branch) Udupi Region.**
Last Date of Submission: 17.11.2025 by 3.00 p.m
For tender copy, detailed terms and conditions please visit the tender section of our **Bank's website** at **www.bankofbaroda.com.**
Bank reserves the right to reject any/all tenders without assigning the reason whatsoever. Corrigendum/ Addendum will be published in website only.
Place: Mangalore, Date: 27.10.2025 **Sd/-, General Manager, Zonal Head**

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJAWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvnl.com
RO No. 821 **Corrigendum/Addendum-6** **Dated : 25/10/2025**
The addendum-6 for e-NIT No.: 01/UJVNL/DGM(Civil-AT&TP)/2025-26 invited by this office has been uploaded on e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in. For any clarification and submission of queries kindly email us on dgmcivilattp@gmail.com. The other terms & conditions of bid document will remain same.
Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in"
Dy. General Manager (Civil)
Arakot-Tiuni &Tiuni Plasu Project, Dakpathar
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

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यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India | **ZONAL OFFICE,VIJAYAWADA**
2nd Floor, Andhra Bank Building, RR Apparao Street, One Town, Vijayawada-520001
TENDER NOTICE
TENDER REF NO: ZO: OPR: PMC:01:2025-26
Union Bank of India invites sealed RFP for appointment of "Project Management Consultancy (PMC)" for development of Green Building property on Bank's vacant plot at Amaravathi. For full details of the RFP/Tender, please log on to Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.co.in** & Govt. portal **http://eprocure.gov.in.** Last date for submission of sealed bids is 2.00 PM on 17-11-2025 at Union Bank of India, Zonal Office, Vijayawada. Further updates, corrigendum, addendums if any, will be published on bank's website & government portal only.
Date: 27-10-2025 **Dy. Zonal Head**

KSITIL **NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**
Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) invites e-Tenders under two cover bid system (Bid 1 : Prequalification & Techno Commercial bid and Bid 2: Price Bid) from eligible Contractors for the work" Establishment of Work Near Home Facility at KINFRA, Ramanatukkara, Kozhikode".
PAC: Rs.5,78,85,676/-+ GST,
Tender No. KSITIL/WNH/2025-26/20
Last Date of submission of e-tender :3.00 PM on 14/11/2025
Tender documents and tender schedule may be downloaded from the e-GP website: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Date: 27/10/2025 Managing Director
Trivandrum Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited
D3/801/2025/I&PRD

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road,
DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536789/26096834 Fax: 080-25536105
IFT No.: KMF/ENGG/BELLARY ICP-HT WORKS/2025-26 Date: 27.10.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]
Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender through KPP portal for the works mentioned in the below table. The interested and reputed firms, suppliers, manufacturers may participate in the tender by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in & also contact Help desk No.-080 23010900/23010901 E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of HT Substation Works includes 2500KVA Transformer, 1500KVA DG Set, Metering Cubical, RMU unit, PCC Panel, Utility panel, APFC Panel, HT & LT Cables & MS Structure For Nandini ice cream plant at Bellary.	1 Job	8 Lakhs	10 Months

1. Tenders may be downloaded from dated 27.10.2025 to 26.11.2025 up to 4-00 PM.
2. Last date for Tender submission on 26.11.2025 up to 4.00 PM.
3. Pre-Bid Meeting on 10.11.2025 at 11.30 AM.
4. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on 28.11.2025 at 11.30 AM.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPP portal only.
For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

NATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY ®
NATIONAL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
Shivamogga, Karnataka
REQUIREMENT
Applications are invited from qualified candidates.

Sl No	Post	Department	Qualification & Eligibility
1	Professor	1. Pharmaceutical Analysis 2. Pharmacology	Educational qualifications as per PCI norms. Salary is not a constraint for deserving candidates.
2	Assistant Professor	1. Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs 2. Pharmaceutical Chemistry / Analysis 3. Pharmacology	
3	Lecturers	To teach D.Pharm	

Application on plain paper with complete resume along with copies of relevant certificate & testimonials should be sent by mail within 7 days from the date of advertisement.
Contact: Principal-9449573422 Email Id: ncpvacany@gmail.com
Secretary
NES

Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:
BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
BIAL Project Office, Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
Bangalore 560 300 **Web: www.bengaluruairport.com**
Kempegowda INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BENGALURU
NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S. No.	Tender Title	Short description of scope of work
1.	**Design and Construction of "GA Terminal and Associated works"**	The Contractor shall be fully responsible for the end-to-end execution of the project, encompassing, but not limited to Design Development, Excavation, Civil, Structural, Architectural, Interior Finishing Work, MEPF, ICT Related Works, Furnitures, Landscape and Softscape related works, Airport Systems, and Equipment, ORAT across Landside and Terminal. This responsibility includes securing all necessary statutory approvals. The Contractor shall ensure seamless coordination with Design Consultants, the Project Management Consultants (PMC), relevant authorities, and all other stakeholders to ensure the successful completion of Works. The successful contractor will be required to coordinate with all related works contractors for the completion of this project. Plot Area - • GA Terminal Site: 0.80 Acre (Approx. 3280 Sqm) • GA Terminal Building Footprint: Approx. 900 Sqm + 1250 • GA Terminal - Built up Area: 1400 Sqm (G+1) Approximately

Pre qualification criteria & other information are available on BIAL website www.bengaluruairport.com under Tenders section.
The submission due date & Time shall be 10th November 2025 at IST 17:00 Hours. Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E-Mail: projecttenders@bialairport.com.
To submit EOI, register and login to BIAL E-Tendering website (https://www.bialtenders.com) event ID: 3535.
Note: Any Further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.
Name and address of the entity seeking EOI:
Vice President - Procurement & Contracts
Bangalore International Airport Limited
BIAL Project Office,
Kempegowda International Airport,
Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300
Email: projecttenders@bialairport.com
Phone No: 080 - 66782431 | www.bengaluruairport.com

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A 32-year-old woman was admitted to Sullia taluk hospital, Dakshina Kannada, after being bitten by a snake that was inside her footwear on Sunday. Vinutha (32), a homemaker, was bitten on her toes. She was immediately rushed to the hospital, where she received treatment

With lack of evidence, SIT now shifts focus to conspiracy angle

'Will now probe whether there was a conspiracy to target temple town, people behind it'

DHARMASTHALA CASE

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE Special Investigation Team (SIT) tasked with probing the allegations of mass burials in Dharmasthala has "so far not found any clinching evidence to support the sensational claim. The team is now investigating whether there was a conspiracy to target the temple town and people behind it," sources told *TNIE* on condition of anonymity.

"Why did the whistleblower/complainant CN Chinnaniah, who is under arrest on charges of perjury, give a statement under oath before the court that he was coerced to bury more than 100 bodies, including of minors and women many bearing signs of sexual violence? Who instigated him to make such serious allegations? So far, the SIT has not found any truth in Chinnaiah's claims," added sources. The Special Investigation Team on Saturday issued 41A notices to three activists - Mahesh Shetty Thimarodi, T Jayanth and Girish Mattannavar — for questioning on Monday.

In August, Chinnaiah, who worked as a temple sanitation worker in Dharmasthala between 1995 and 2014, alleged that he was forced to bury more than 100 bodies between 2002 and 2014, including of minors and women, who he claimed were victims of sexual assault and murder. Chinnaiah had subsequently given a statement under oath before the court. He even presented a human skull to the Dakshina Kannada police, claiming that he had exhumed it from one of the several sites where he had buried bodies. He later retracted the statement and reportedly told the SIT that the exhibit was given to him by Vittala Gowda, who is the uncle of Soujanya, who was raped and murdered in Dakshina Kannada in October 2012.

The SIT has dug and examined around 18 said burial sites identified by Chinnaiah. At some sites, including in Banglegudde, some human skeletal remains were found. They have been sent for DNA analysis and forensic examination. Another complainant Sujatha Bhat, who had earlier claimed that her daughter Ananya had gone missing after a trip to Dharmasthala in 2003, later retracted her statement, saying she never had a daughter and that she had made a false statement at the instigation of Mattannavar, Jayanth and others. The Dharmasthala mass burial case hit the national headlines in July on the embers of the yet-to-be-solved rape and murder case of a 17-year-old Soujanya in October 2012 at Ujire in DK district. Soujanya's body bearing signs of rape and strangulation was found on October 10, a day after she went missing near the Nethravathi river. The case was initially investigated by the local police before being given to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). In 2013, the case was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CID and CBI charge-sheeted the main accused - a vagabond -- Santhosh Rao -- but the CBI court in 2023 acquitted him, citing lack of evidence and flaws in the initial police investigation. In 2024, the Karnataka High Court rejected a plea for a fresh investigation into the sensational murder case, upholding the acquittal of Rao due to lack of evidence.

The state government had set up the SIT in July this year to probe Chinnaiah's allegations and appointed Director General of Police, Cyber Command, Pronab Mohanty to head it.

SIT receives FSL report on remains

MANGALURU: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala has received the report from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) on human remains recovered during exhumation near the Nethravathi bathing ghat. A senior officer part of the investigation said that the FSL report on human remains recovered at Site 6 states that the remains belong to a male and not a female, as alleged by the complainant. "Also, the report states that the age of the remains cannot be determined, and there is no DNA sample also to match it with. The report on the five skulls seized from Banglegudde is yet to be received," the officer said. Meanwhile, the SIT will record the statements of five accused in connection with the perjury case on Monday. A senior officer part of the investigation said that they have already issued notices to the five accused—Mahesh Shetty Timarodi, Girish Mattannavar, Vittal Gowda, Jayant T, and Sujatha Bhat. "If they fail to appear for questioning on Monday, we will issue a second notice, and if they still fail to record their statements, we will arrest them," the officer said, adding that after their voluntary statements are verified, they will file the chargesheet. Meanwhile, permission for a protest in support of Sowjanya campaign activist Timarodi has been denied by the Dakshina Kannada police. Dakshina Kannada SP Dr Arun K, in a press communique, said that Anil Kumar, president of Rashtriya Hindu Jagrana Vedike, Belthangady taluk, had sought permission for the protest. "But a writ petition in connection with the case is already being heard in the High Court, and hence permission for the protest has been denied. We will take necessary action if the instructions are not followed," he warned.

RIVER DUMPING

Continuous dumping of construction debris along the Phalguni river near Melkoppala, Kuluru, near Mangaluru, has raised serious environmental concerns among local residents. Despite repeated objections from the community, debris continues to be dumped by the riverbank over the past few months. Responding to the issue, Mangaluru City Corporation officials have imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on a vehicle caught dumping construction waste in the area

K'taka-TN water row solved naturally this year, says DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the water resources portfolio, has said that Karnataka has released 273.426 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu this year owing to good rains.

Karnataka has to release 177.25 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu as per the Supreme Court's order.

"The issue of water sharing between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has been naturally resolved this year," Shivakumar said, adding that the Krishnaraja Sagar Reservoir in Mandya district has reached its full capacity for the third time this year setting a record. The maximum capacity of KRS is 124.8 ft.

Shivakumar said that in the last 93 years, KRS has attained full capacity 77 times. He said that as per the SC order, Karnataka that was to release 177.25 tmcft of water to TN annually, has released an additional 135.41 tmcft this year. Shivakumar also pointed out that the major dams in the Cauvery basin—KRS, Kabini, and Hemavathi dams—are full. With this, 6,576 lakes in the Cauvery basin are full. Along with this, lakes that come under minor irrigation and RDPR departments are also full, he said.

'No drinking water crisis in Bengaluru this summer'

Shivakumar said Bengaluru will face no drinking water crisis this ensuing summer. Bengaluru needs 31 tmcft of water for drinking purposes anually. As lakes and dams are full, Bengaluru will have sufficient drinking water, he said. Shivakumar also said that from Bidar to Chamarajanagar, Ballari to Kolar, most places have received good rains. "There is no water shortage for people or cattle. There is no problem to take up agriculture work," he said.

RSS not a secretive organisation, has no enemies: Ram Madhav

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

THOSE who are in Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) are Swayamsevaks (volunteers) of today, and those who are not will be Swayamsevaks tomorrow, including RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge and others, former BJP general secretary (organising) **Ram Madhav** said on Sunday.

He went on to add that one should be an "idiot" to say that RSS shakhas (meetings) must not be held in public places.

His response comes at a time when Priyank demanded restrictions on RSS activities in public places and action against Karnataka government employees taking part in RSS activities, leading to a political furore.

Madhav was delivering a talk on 'RSS 100--Centenary Year of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh', organised by Manthana Darahalli held in Bengaluru. Stating that RSS is not a secretive organisation, Madhav said it is good that the meetings are held in public places, so that activities are open and it is easy to monitor its activities.

Beginning his lecture tracing the history of RSS, Madhav, who is also the president of the think tank India Foundation, said, "Many opposed RSS. At the most, they expected it to be a fringe element. But RSS has not only survived 100 years but continues to grow, attracting the wider Indian society, which is special and unique."

RSS has become the heartbeat of Indian society, he said. "The thoughts RSS represented about dharma and culture are today the thoughts of the mainstream. One may or may not belong to RSS, but has respect towards it, and there lies its success," he added.

"To live as per the principles of Hindu dharma and lead life as a good Hindu is what RSS wants, and it is not propounding anything new," he said. Madhav said that any other organisation would not have survived 100 years, given the misunderstandings and the scrutiny that the RSS has faced. He recalled that RSS fought for the protection of the Constitution, goraksha (cow protection), to eradicate caste differences and untouchability, and fought against the emergency to restore democracy.

He said that former PMs Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi and revolutionary leader Jayaprakash Narayan had changed their ideas about RSS and added their great-grandchildren may take some more time to understand. He said RSS had no enemies, but others assume the Sangh are their enemies.

He ended his speech stating that the Sangh would take up the 'RSS Pancha Parivaratan' (five key areas of transformation).

Film director TS Nagabharana and others were present.

NOT EVERYONE IN CONG GOVT INTERESTED IN RESTRICTING RSS ACTIVITIES: RAM MADHAV

MYSURU: Former BJP general secretary (organising) Ram Madhav said not everyone in the Congress government is interested in restricting or controlling the activities of the RSS, but that it is the agenda of a few individuals within the party. Speaking on 'RSS 100 - Centenary Year of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh' organised by Jan Jagarana Trust, Mysuru, and Manthan Mysore at the Jagannatha Centre for Art and Culture in Vijayanagar, Mysuru, Madhav said, "Controlling the RSS is not the intention of the entire government; it is the personal agenda of some. A few within the government are opposing the Sangh excessively. The RSS is doing good work and has already faced three bans. When the proposal to ban the RSS was brought before Indira Gandhi, she told her party colleagues that the RSS is like a rubber ball, it bounces back twice as high when it hits the ground. Hence, any attempt to suppress the RSS is meaningless."

Coast Guard rescues 31 fishermen stranded in Arabian Sea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

THE Indian Coast Guard (ICG) successfully rescued 31 fishermen from the fishing boat IFB Sant Anton-I, which had been adrift at sea for 11 days due to a steering gear breakdown. The vessel, based in Goa, lost control while at sea, prompting the Indian Coast Guard Headquarters No. 3 (Karnataka) to launch an immediate rescue operation on October 24, 2025.

ICGS Kasturba Gandhi, which was on routine patrol, was diverted to the vessel's last known position, about 100 nautical miles off New Mangalore. Meanwhile, a Coast Guard Dornier aircraft from Kochi was deployed to locate the drifting boat, which had moved away from its original position due to severe weather conditions.

Braving rough seas and challenging weather, the Coast Guard ship reached the position reported by the aircraft and successfully located IFB Sant Anton-I on October 25. The crew provided vital assistance, including logistics and technical support, to investigate and repair the steering system. Once the damage was contained, the distressed fishing boat was safely towed to Honnavar fishing harbour.

"This swift and coordinated sea-air rescue effort, executed under challenging conditions, exemplifies the Indian Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to maritime safety and its motto: 'We Protect. 'The operation saved 31 precious lives and highlighted the professionalism and dedication of the ICG," said a release from ICG.

Fishermen being rescued by the Indian Coast Guard | EXPRESS

Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa addresses the media in Shivamogga on Sunday | EXPRESS

'Govt to revisit eligibility criteria for ration cards'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

FOOD and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa on Sunday said that the State Government is considering revising the eligibility criteria for ration cards.

Responding to a question on whether the government plans to revise the annual income limit for BPL cards, currently fixed at Rs 1.2 lakh, and adjust it in line with inflation, Muniyappa said, "The Centre issues guidelines for the distribution of ration cards. It is under the government's consideration to revise the eligibility criteria. We will do whatever is required in this matter." Speaking to media persons in Shivamogga, Muniyappa said tender will be floated within two months to distribute pulses, cooking oil, sugar, and salt under the PDS, in addition to the existing 5kg of rice. "The CM has approved the proposal," the minister said. "To prevent such misuse, the government has decided to distribute pulses and cooking oil along with rice. A survey among ration card holders revealed that about 90% of them demanded the inclusion of pulses and edible oil," he said.

"Not a single BPL or APL card will be cancelled while the ineligible BPL card holders will be issued APL cards instead," he said. Applications for new ration cards will be invited after the exercise to remove ineligible BPL beneficiaries is completed, he said, adding that ration cards will not be denied to beneficiaries covered under the 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme.

CODAVA NATIONAL COUNCIL TO HOLD SATYAGRAHA IN DELHI ON NOV 1

MADIKERI: The Codava National Council (CNC) will hold a New Delhi Chalo on November 1. A silent protest will be held in the National Capital to coincide with the Kannada Rajyotsava celebration across Karnataka. The council will place various resolutions before the government, including stressing autonomous status for Kodagu. CNC president NU Nachappa said that the council has been fighting for the rights to self-governance through geopolitical autonomy for Kodava land under the 6th Schedule of the Constitution. He said that the council members will hold a peaceful satyagraha at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi and demand the rights of the Kodava community and added that the CNC will observe Kannada Rajyotsava as the 'Day of Encroachment of Kodava Land.' "November 1, 1956, is the day when the mono-ethnic Kodava people lost their beloved homeland. Our land was merged into Karnataka, and this is the biggest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century. After the merger of our state under the States Reorganisation Act, the Kodavas became non-existent in their own homeland," Nachappa said.

LOST HISTORY

7th century Chalukyan measuring scale fades into oblivion

AMIT S UPADHYE @Hubballi

A rare 7th-century measuring scale, considered one of the oldest such inscriptions in India post-Harappa, lies in a state of severe neglect on the outskirts of Kurugodu town in Ballari district.

The archaeological wonder, dating back to the Badami Chalukya era (circa 650 AD), is fast deteriorating due to official apathy and vandalism.Carved on a large boulder and featuring the royal Varaha (boar) emblem of the Chalukyas, the 18-span scale was used for land surveys during the reign of the dynasty. First documented in the 1980s by Rajendrappa Shivappa, former editor of the Karnataka Gazetteer, the site was initially provided with a temporary protective room.

Ironically, this very structure has now become a threat. The enclosure is used for illegal activities, garbage dumping, and as a shelter for livestock. Water stagnation during monsoons is rapidly eroding the inscription and diagrams, including a donkey drawing that gives the site its local name, 'Kattebande'.

"This is the rarest and oldest measuring inscription found in India after the Harappa era," laments Shivappa, who has been fighting for its preservation for decades.

"I was shocked to see its present condition. It is imperative we save it before the carvings fade away completely," he said. Despite Shivappa's repeated appeals to various government agencies, the monument has not been included in the protected category. He suggests immediate measures: "The inscription must be freed from the closed room. It requires a soft chemical wash and the placement of a fiberglass cover for protection."

The inscription also holds historical significance, referring to the town by its ancient name, 'Kurumgodu', and symbolizing the region's rich agricultural past. As efforts remain stalled, a priceless piece of Karnataka's history continues to vanish.

The room built over the 7th-century Chalukyan measuring scale in Kurugodu is now a shelter for livestock and people, accelerating the erosion of the inscription

I was shocked to see its present condition. It is imperative we save it before the carvings fade away completely

Rajendrappa Shivappa, former editor of the Karnataka Gazetteer

KURNOOL BUS TRAGEDY

Biker was drunk, confirms FSL test

K MADHU SUDHAKAR @ Kurnool

THE Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) report has confirmed that the biker, identified as Shivashankar, was drunk and primarily responsible for triggering the Vemuri Kaveri Travels bus fire near Chinnatekuru village in Kurnool district in the early hours of Friday, which claimed 19 lives.

According to the forensic report, alcohol traces were found in the viscera samples of Shivashankar. Kurnool SP Vikrant Patil said Shivashankar lost control of his bike, and it hit the road divider. He died instantaneously in the incident. A complaint lodged by his friend Yerriswami, the pillion rider who survived, led to the registration of a new case under Sections 281, 125(A), and 106(1) of the BNS. Yerriswami had admitted that they both consumed liquor.

The preliminary inquiry revealed that the biker purchased liquor from a licensed retail outlet twice, once at 7 pm and again at 8.25 pm. The store is located at Peddatekur village, more than 240 metres away from the National Highway, and built in full compliance with the Supreme Court orders.

Two other buses that passed the same route avoided the fallen bike, but the Kaveri Travels bus hit it at a high speed, causing sparks that led to the massive fire. Earlier, the police had registered an FIR naming the Kaveri Travels bus driver (A1) and owner (A2) for negligence under the same Sections of BNS, based on a complaint lodged by passenger Ramesh.

Excise Commissioner Sridhar said the Kurnool District Prohibition & Excise Officer would submit a report on the liquor purchases made by the biker to the government.

The Collector said the families of the deceased were provided with the copies of DNA, inquest and FIR reports.

361 cases filed against pvt operators, 40 buses seized

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh Transport department has carried out a massive statewide enforcement drive to curb irregularities among private travel operators on Sunday. The special operation, conducted across all the districts in the state, resulted in 361 cases being booked for various violations and officials had seized 40 private travel buses for violations. Officials focused on unauthorised modifications particularly buses converted from seating to sleeper without approval, absence of fire safety equipment, and operation with invalid or expired fitness certificates. Speaking to TNIE, Transport officials said that many buses were found operating illegally between states under the guise of AIP permits, with no valid fitness certificates or proper fire extinguishers on board. ENS

Families of Karur stampede victims leave for Chennai to meet TVK chief Vijay

Karur : Relatives of at least 31 people killed in the Karur stampede travelled to Chennai on Sunday to meet Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) founder Vijay on Monday morning. The party had arranged for five omni buses to transport the kin. The buses departed from Vennamalai with instructions from the party headquarters to ensure all families reached Mahabalipuram the same night. The relatives will be accommodated at the Four Points by Sheraton hotel in Poonjeri, where over 45 rooms have been booked for them. Actor-politician Vijay is set to meet the families and offer his condolences on Monday. 41 people were killed and several injured in a stampede that occurred during Vijay campaign meet at Karur on September 27. TVK has organised for them to meet Vijay on Monday at the resort. Of the 31 families from Karur district who lost loved ones in the stampede, six to eight families opted out of making the trip to Mahabalipuram citing health issues, the rituals to be observed on the 30th day of a death, or an unwillingness to travel, sources said. ENS

Sabarimala gold row: More TDB officials to be quizzed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

THE special investigation team (SIT) will interrogate more Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) members accused in the Sabarimala gold theft case on Monday and Tuesday. The accused, including former Sabarimala executive officer D Sudheesh Kumar and former TDB secretary Jayasree, will be summoned for questioning as the police custody of key accused Unnikrishnan Potti expires by October 30, sources said. The SIT plan, sources added, is to question the accused in Potti's presence.

Sudheesh and Jayasree allegedly aided former Sabarimala administrative officer Murari Babu, who has been arrested, in the subterfuge. Sudheesh is accused of trying to conceal the fact that the dwarapalaka idols and the door frames were gold-plated and instead mentioning them as copper sheets in official records. It was in 1998 that United Breweries Group and its then chairman, industrialist Vijay Mallya, sponsored the gold-plating of the sanctum sanctorum, roof and the domes. Sudheesh and Murari had joined the TDB much earlier and were aware of UB Group's work. Still, they recorded the sheets as copper, which the SIT reckons was deliberately done to facilitate the fraud. Jayasree has been accused of tweaking the TDB order allowing Potti to take the sheets for repair by adding that the sheets were copper – it was not in the order originally.

Cyclone Montha looms, red alert for 12 AP dists

Wind speeds are likely to range between 90 and 100 kmph; orange alert in six districts and yellow alert in five

USHA PERI @ Visakhapatnam

THE India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for several coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, including Prakasam, Bapatla, Krishna, Nellore, West Godavari, Konaseema, and Kakinada, for Monday, in view of the deep depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal, which is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm 'Montha' by October 28.

The system lay centred at 5.30 pm on October 26 over the same region, about 670 km west of Port Blair, 720 km east-southeast of Chennai, 780 km southeast of Kakinada, 790 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam, and 900 km south-southeast of Gopalpur. The system is expected to move west-northwestwards and intensify further into a cyclonic storm over the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal within the next 24 hours. It is then likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by the morning of October 28 and cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Kakinada on the evening or night of October 28. Wind speeds are likely to range between 90 and 100 kmph, with gusts reaching up to 110 kmph during landfall.

For Tuesday, a red alert has been issued for Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Anakapalle, Kakinada, Yanam, Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, NTR, Krishna, Guntur, and Bapatla districts. Orange alert has been sounded for Parvathipuram Manyam, Palnadu, Prakasam, SPSR Nellore, Tirupati, YSR Kadapa, Kurnool, and Nandyal districts, while Chittoor, Annamayya, Sri Sathya Sai, and Anantapur remain under a yellow alert.

With Montha approaching, dark clouds hover over Kakinada on Sunday | EXPRESS

8 dists in Odisha to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall

Bhubaneswar: Cyclone Montha that formed on Sunday, and is likely to trigger heavy to very heavy rains in eight districts in Odisha on Monday, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The national weather forecaster said the depression rapidly intensified into a deep depression, and later into a cyclonic storm over the south-west and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal on the day. The regional met office said Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri districts are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rains. ENS

Parts of Tamil Nadu may receive showers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE India Meteorological Department (IMD) has retained the orange alert, issued for a few northern coastal districts in Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, for Monday. According to weather bloggers, TN and Chennai may see a break from rains — barring isolated spells — this November.

Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Ranipet, Chennai and isolated areas in Villupuram and Chengalpattu, may receive heavy rain on Monday. Tiruvallur, isolated areas of Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Chennai, Tenkasi, Kanniyakumari and ghat areas of Tirunelveli, might receive heavy rain on Tuesday.

The depression over south-east Bay of Bengal moved west-northwestwards and intensified into a deep depression in the early hours of Sunday. It is likely to intensify further into a cyclonic storm over the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal in the next 24 hours ending Monday afternoon.

According to the IMD, from October 29 to November 1, there may be light to moderate spells over isolated places of the state. In the local forecast for Chennai, the IMD said that the maximum temperature would hover around 31°C and the minimum temperature around 25 °C on Monday.

Water being released from the Sathyamoorthy reservoir | ASHWIN PRASATH

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: EE(E)/AEE(O)/AE(T)/PD/MYSURU/2025-26/1983 Dated: 23.10.2025

NOTIFICATION

KPTCL has formulated a scheme under section 28 and clause(e) of section 18 of the Indian Electricity Supply Act 1948 and the scheme is herewith published in pursuance of section 29(2) of the said act and also under Indian Electricity Act 2003 section 67 to be read with 67(2), this notification is issued for information of the General public. Particulars of scheme are as here under.

1. Name of the work: Establishing 2X20MVA, 66/11kV sub-station at Valagere and Construction of 66kV LILO line on 110kV DC Towers with ACSR Coyote conductor from existing circuit of 66kV Nanjangud-Sindhuvallipura DC line to proposed 66/11kV Valagere sub-station for a distance of 8 kms in Nanjangud Taluk, Mysuru District. **Salient Feature:** To ensure reliable power supply and to meet the anticipated future load growth in and around Valagere and the adjoining villages. **Areas Passing Through:** Valagere adjacent villages such as Karlapura, Haratale and Valagere. **Approximate length line:** 7.28 kms. **Approximate cost:** Rs.2407.60 Lakhs.

2. Name of the work: Establishing 2x20 MVA, 66/11kV sub-station at Doddekoppalu and Construction of Proposed 66kV LILO line on 110kV DC Towers using Coyote Conductor from existing 66kV Elawala - Hunsur DC line to the proposed 66/11kV sub-station Doddekoppalu for a distance of 4.624 Kms in Hunsur Taluk, Mysuru District. **Salient Feature:** To ensure reliable power supply and to meet the anticipated future load growth in and around Doddekoppalu and the adjoining villages. **Areas Passing Through:** Doddekoppalu adjacent villages such as Shravanahalli, Hejjodlu, Kuppe, Thulasi Koppalu and Rayanahally. **Approximate length line:** 4.624 Kms. **Approximate cost:** Rs.2304.62 Lakhs.

3. Name of the work: Establishing 2X20MVA, 66/11kV sub-station at Dasanooru and Construction of 66KV LILO Line on 110KV DC Narrow Based towers using Coyote Conductor from existing 66KV Panyadahundi-Karya Line to the proposed 66/11kV S/S at Dasanooru for a distance of 2.943 kms in Nanjangud Taluk, Mysuru District. **Salient Feature:-** To ensure reliable power supply and to meet the anticipated future load growth in and around Dasanooru and the adjoining villages. **Areas Passing Through:** Dasanooru adjacent villages such Konanapura, Paduvalamarahalli and Dasanooru. **Approximate length line:** 2.943 kms. **Approximate cost:** Rs.2203.20 Lakhs.

4. Name of the work: Establishing 2x20MVA, 66/11kV sub-station at Mannehundi (Kiragasuru) and Construction of 66kV LILO line on 110kV DC Narrow Based Towers using Coyote Conductor from the existing 66kV Gargeshwari-T.Narasipura SC line to the proposed 66/11kV sub-station at Mannehundi (Kiragasuru) for a distance of 2.55 kms in T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District. **Salient Feature:** To ensure reliable power supply and to meet the anticipated future load growth in and around Mannehundi (Kiragasuru) and the adjoining villages. **Areas Passing Through:** Mannehundi (Kiragasuru) adjacent villages such Kiragasuru, Biligerehundi and Mannehundi. **Approximate length line:** 2.55 kms. **Approximate cost:** Rs.2145.44 Lakhs.

5. Name of the work: Establishing 2x20 MVA, 66/11kV sub-station at Mosambayanahalli and Construction of Proposed 66kV LILO line on 110kV DC Towers using ACSR Coyote Conductor from existing 66kV Vajamangala - Kadakola DC line to the proposed 66/11kV sub-station Mosambayanahalli for a distance of 2.450 Kms in Mysuru Taluk & District. **Salient Feature:** To ensure reliable power supply and to meet the anticipated future load growth in and around Mosambayanahalli and the adjoining villages. **Areas Passing Through:** Mosambayanahalli adjacent villages such as Varuna, Dandikere and Choganahalli. **Approximate length line:** 2.450 Kms. **Approximate cost:** Rs.2848.75 Lakhs.

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers under the section 164 of Indian Electricity Act 2003 read with para (iii) of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (10 to 19 & 19A of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objection regarding the above scheme shall be sent to the undersigned office within One month from the date of publication of this notification for consideration by Corporation.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), Projects Division, KPTCL, N. R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570007

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JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

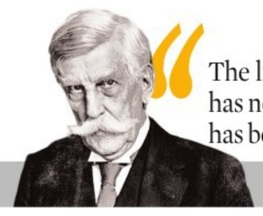
Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Ravi K P, 2) Mr. Puttaiah Shetty	Loan Account No. 47049610000050 47049970000012 Loan Amount: Rs.20,20,000/- Rs.1,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing CMC Khatha No.1189/6013, measuring East to West 18 Feet and North to South 59 ½ feet totally measuring 1071 Sq.feet, situated at Dharmaraj Works Shop Road, Kanakapura CMC, Kanakapura Town, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Ward No.18 and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Murthy Rao, **West by:** Property belongs to Sri Ramakrishna, **North by:** Property belongs to Sri Srinivas, **South by:** Pathway and house belongs to Dasappa.	Date of NPA: 03-09-2025 Demand Notice Date: 22.10.2025	Rs.20,76,125.60 (Rupees Twenty Lakh Seventy Six Thousand One Hundred Twenty Five and Sixty Paisa Only) due as on 21-10-2025
2	1) Mr. Govindaraju, 2) Mrs. Lakshmi S	Loan Account No. 47040430000943 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property No. 152900200900520082 Khaneshwari No.237/287/286, measuring East to West 6.096 meter and North to South 21.336000000000002 meter, situated at Aralimaradadoddi Village, Kodihalli Grama Panchayath and Kodihalli Hobali Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Suresh, **West by:** Pathway, **North by:** Remaining Property, **South by:** Property belongs to Choodalingaiah.	Date of NPA: 01-10-2025 Demand Notice Date: 22.10.2025	Rs.4,90,630.27 (Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Thousand Six Hundred Thirty and Twenty Seven Paisa Only) due as on 18-10-2025
3	1) Mr. Ravi, 2) Mrs. Chikkamma	Loan Account No. 45350530000149 Loan Amount: Rs.3,30,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property No. 152900400300600291 Khatha No.146/5, measuring East to West 9.144 meter and North to South 6.096 meter, situated at Bettangere Village, Bannikuppe (B) Grama Panchayath, Ramanagar Bolck, Ramanagar District and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** Remaining 5 feet Property, **North by:** Government Property, South by: Remaining 2 feet Property.	Date of NPA: 01-10-2025 Demand Notice Date: 22.10.2025	Rs.3,12,759.13 (Rupees Three Lakh Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Nine and Thirteen Paisa Only) due as on 18-10-2025
4	1) Mrs. Muniyamma, 2) Mr. Rajanna	Loan Account No. 32510430000110 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 145/7/3, situated at Cheemandahalli Village, comes within the purview of Doddagattiganabbe Grama Panchayath, Hoskote Taluk and Bangalore Rural District, measuring East-West 40 ft, North-South 16 ft, totally measuring 640 Sq.ft and **Bounded on: East by:** 10 feet Road and Ashwath Katte, **West by:** Haraluru Muniyappa House, **North by:** Chandrappa House, **South by:** Government School and Road. Measuring East-West 40 ft, North-South 16 ft, totally measuring 640 Sq.ft.	Date of NPA: 01-10-2025 Demand Notice Date: 22.10.2025	Rs.4,95,239.00 (Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Nine Only) due as on 18-10-2025
5	1) M/S. Narayana Swamy Provission Store, Prop. Mrs. Radha N and Mr. Sreenivasa Murthy G N, 2) Mr. Mrs. Radha N, Prop. bf M/s. Narayana Swamy Provission Store, 3) Mr. Sreenivasa Murthy G N, Prop. of M/s. Narayanaswamy Provission Store, 4) Mr. Gopalappa G N	Loan Account No. 46989440000036 46989670000141 Loan Amount: Rs.20,00,000/- Rs.2,54,574/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site Nos.29, 30 & 31, Old Khatha No.4018A/ V.S.4008 & 1498/4994/2 & 1696/1498/4994/2 remaining 40ft X 20ft and Khatha No.4018/ V'S 4008/1497/4994/1 & 1695/1497/4994/1 Remaining 40ft X 10ft present CMC Khatha SL No.5077, property No.1696/1498/4994/2 & 1695/1497/4994/1, situated, at Rojipura Village, Doddaballapura Town Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded by the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Civil Municipal Court Compound, **North by:** Site No.29, **South by:** G Giriprakash Property. Measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet	Date of NPA: 01-10-2025 Demand Notice Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.15,36,737.81 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven and Eighty One Paisa Only) due as on 23.10.2025
6	1) Mr. Kumara, 2) Mrs. Yashodha, 3) Mrs. Lakshmamma	Loan Account No. 47040430001920 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property No. 152900200801100013/14/11/1 measuring East to West 9.4488 meter and North to South 13.1064 totally measuring 123.83 sq.meter situated at Anedoddi Village, Kolliganahalli Grama Panchayath, Kanakpura Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: On the East:** 8 feet Road Pathway, **On the West:** Property belongs to Chikkamutthamma, **On the North:** Property belongs to Nagarathna, W/o. Nanjunda, **On the South:** Property belongs to Nagarathna, W/o. Nanjunda.	Date of NPA: 01-10-2025 Demand Notice Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.5,27,861.08 (Rupees Five Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty One and Eight Paisa Only) due as on 20-10-2025
7	1) Mr. Venkatachalaiah, 2) Mrs. Maramma	Loan Account No. 47050430000333 47059410000901 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.2,17,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the Property No.1, Sl. No.1, measuring East to West 10.6707 meters and North to South 13.7195 meters, situated at Koothagondanahalli, Village, Iruligara Colony Village, Somadyamappanahalli Gram Panchayath, Kasaba Hobali, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** House belongs to Narayana, **North by:** House belongs to Govinda, **South by:** Road.	Date of NPA: 01-10-2025 Demand Notice Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.6,18,089.78 (Rupees Six Lakh Eighteen Thousand Eighty Nine and Seventy Eight Paisa Only) due as on 21-10-2025
8	1) Mr. Shivakumara, 2) Mrs. Padmamma	Loan Account No. 45359630000968 45359410000681 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel the for property 92, Sl. No.108, Khaneshumari No.108/92, measuring East to West 8.9276 meter (34 feet) and North to South 26.2577 meters (100 feet), situated at Honnahalli Village, Choodahalli Gram Panchayath, Satanuru Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Land belongs to Channegowda, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Pathway Road, **South by:** Land belongs to Umesh.	Date of NPA: 01-10-2025 Demand Notice Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.8,42,381.38 (Rupees Eight Lakh Forty Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty One and Thirty Eight Paisa Only) due as on 20-10-2025
9	1) Mr. Bommaraju, 2) Mrs. Jayalakshmi	Loan Account No. 47050430000702 Loan Amount: Rs.4,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for the property E-Khatha No.152900102301220087, Khaneshumari No.412/309/37/1, measuring East to West 13.4112 meters and North to South 5.7912 meters, situated at Moleddoddi Village, Nilasandra Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobali, Channapattana Brock, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: On the East:** Governament Road, **On the West:** Site belongs to Nilamma, **On the North:** House belongs to Lakshmamma @ Dyavasara, **On the South:** Site belongs to Soiddaraju.	Date of NPA: 03-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.3,39,285.14 (Rupees Three Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five and Fourteen Paisa Only) due as on 18-10-2025
10	1) Mrs. Jayalakshmamma, 2) Mrs. Punith Kumar BS	Loan Account No. 47040430000153 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the for property No. 152900200500600601 Khaneshwari No.08, measuring East to West 9.146 Meters, North to South 11.280 Meters, situated at Bhoohali Village, Kadahalli Grama Panchayat, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: On the East:** House belongs to Shankaramma @ Shivananjachari, **On the West:** Property belongs to Shivaraji, S/o. Homballegowda, **On the North:** Land belongs to B.E. Thimmappa, **On the South:** Road.	Date of NPA: 01-10-2025 Demand Notice Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.4,37,910.16 (Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ten and Sixteen Paisa Only) due as on 18-10-2025
11	1) Mr. Krishnamurthy, 2) Mrs. Munirathna K	Loan Account No. 33649630000191 33649410000563 33649410000221 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.3,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property No.199, Measuring 20 X 30 Feet, situated at Ullal Upanagara Village, Near Ullal Main Road, YPR Hobli, Bangalore-560056, Ward No.130 and **Bounded on: East by:** 30 feet Road, **West by:** Obbavva Property, **North by:** 10 feet Passage, **South by:** Vacant land.	Date of NPA: 01-10-2025 Demand Notice Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.10,16,588.58 (Rupees Ten Lakh Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Eight and Fifty Eight Paisa Only) due as on 18.10.2025
12	1) Mr. Jayarama H, Also at: M/s. Jayarama Poultry Farm, 2) Mrs. Radha J	Loan Account No. 45349440000060 Loan Amount: Rs.35,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property: Item No.1:** All that part and parcel of the property bearing Site No.01, Assessment No.11, Present Katha No.11/4/8, Katha No.5, situated at Gangondanahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 62+30/2 feet and North to South 51+39/2 feet, totally measuring 2070 Sq.feet and **Bounded as follows: East by:** Road, **West by:** House Property belonging to Sri Honnasiddaiah, **North by:** Property belonging to Sri Manjunath & **South by:** Remaining Portion of the same property. **Item No.2:** All that part and parcel of the property bearing Site No.02, Assessment No.11, Present Katha No.11/4/8, Katha No.5, situated at Gangondanahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 30+26/2 feet and North to South 16 feet, totally measuring 448 Sq.feet and **Bounded as follows: East by:** Road, **West by:** House Property belonging to Sri Honnasiddaiah, **North by:** Site No.01 belonging Sri Jayarama H & **South by:** Road.	Date of NPA: 08-09-2025 Demand Notice Date: 22.10.2025	Rs.35,28,582.82 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Two and Eighty Two Paisa Only) due as on 21-10-2025

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 27.10.2025, Place: Bangalore Rural & Bangalore — **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

EDITORIAL



"The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience" — Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

RELIEF FOR STUDENTS, H-1B HOLDERS AMID U.S. POLICY FLUIDITY

IN September, a sudden US policy shift shook H-1B visa holders—then came a series of exceptions easing their anxiety. The latest: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' advisory that the draconian $1,00,000 fee introduced last month will not apply to most current visa holders or recent graduates transitioning to H-1B status. The exemption basket includes current H-1B visa holders seeking renewals or extensions, F-1 international students applying for a change of status to H-1B from within the US, L-1 intra-company transferees filing for an H-1B change of status, workers already in the US on valid non-immigrant visas seeking H-1B status, and the 2025-26 H-1B lottery selectees already present in the US. Travel will not affect the status of current H-1B visa holders or those with an approved change-of-status petition. However, the fee applies to petitions filed on or after 12.01 am ET on September 21, 2025, by people outside the US without a valid H-1B visa, or by those requesting consular processing.

Students on F-1 visas typically pursue Optional Practical Training (OPT). Later, they seek H-1B skilled work visas. US government data shows that 4,20,000 Indian students enrolled on F-1/M-1 visas in 2023–24. About 98,000 of them opted for OPT. So, the latest clarification is a big relief for such students. However, even this F-1-OPT-H-1B path is under attack from some senators. They allege that international students are stealing American jobs.

Other pain points include strict social media vetting and shifting policies. Top US universities face a proposal to cap international undergrad enrolment at 15 percent. Institutions were stunned, estimating a loss of 1,50,000 foreign students and $7 billion in revenue this fall if the policy were implemented. For those pursuing the American dream, policy uncertainty is the greatest concern. Meanwhile, how does the drive for American jobs intersect with firms like Amazon? Amazon plans to cut 6,00,000 US jobs and replace them with robots. The company might avoid backlash as a major financier of the White House ballroom.

The paradoxes are easily understood. Blaming foreign workers for job losses rings hollow and weakens that very claim if automation accelerates across industries. Yet in the run-up to the mid-term elections, such rhetoric might play well with MAGA voters—faulting outsiders rather than confronting the larger shifts reshaping work itself.

PRECIOUS METALS ENTER UNSURE PHASE POST-RALLY

GOLD and silver prices defied expectations, hitting record highs earlier this month. But the rally has quickly given way to a sharp correction, and both metals seem to be entering a phase of heightened uncertainty, with analysts cautious about short-term forecasts, though few see the fall as a reversal of the rally. Gold fell from its peak of around ₹1.11 lakh for 10 grams to about ₹1.04 lakh on Friday, while silver dropped from nearly ₹1.70 lakh a kilo to ₹1.59 lakh. Globally, gold saw its steepest one-day fall in more than a decade—over 5.7 percent—ending a nine-week winning streak. Silver, buoyed earlier by festive demand, too fell more than six percent, marking its sharpest drop since March.

If geopolitical tensions, expectations of aggressive rate cuts, heavy central-bank buying, and robust ETF inflows drove the rally, a stronger dollar, profit-taking, and easing fiscal concerns in the US are now dragging prices down. The prospect of the US government averting a prolonged shutdown, along with uncertainty over the Federal Reserve's stance, has further cooled investor appetite for safe havens. Inflation readings in key economies and the Fed's policy cues next week will be watched closely, as lower real interest rates typically lend renewed strength to gold.

Yet, despite the plunge, gold has gained over 50 percent so far this year. Markets too view the decline as a pause, not a reversal, in a broader bull phase shaped by macroeconomic and geopolitical flux. Persistent conflicts, disruptions in trade flows, and anxiety over the global currency order continue to underpin the appeal of tangible assets. US sanctions on Russian oil majors, possible export curbs on China, and tightening supplies of strategic minerals have only reinforced the case for holding precious metals as insurance against shocks.

Above all, central banks remain the strongest pillar of support. The World Gold Council estimates net official purchases at around 900 tonnes in 2025—the fourth consecutive year of above-average buying. As long as they keep adding to reserves, gold will hold its ground as a reliable long-term store of value for both institutions and retail investors, even as short-term corrections test nerves and conviction.

QUICK TAKE

EQUITY SHORTFALL

IN just the second quarter of 2025, India's healthcare sector witnessed 33 private equity deals worth $580 million. Over the past five years, global private equity and sovereign funds have invested $15.5 billion, turning the hospital sector into PE-controlled entities from doctor-promoter models. Private hospitals these investments nurture focus on high-profit urban markets. That leaves low-income communities in the hinterland underserved. Rural residents have to travel long distances for care, often delaying treatment. Public-private partnerships can help, but doctors are reluctant to work in isolated areas. The government must provide infrastructure and local support with strong regulation to capitalise on private equity participation and make public healthcare affordable and universal.

In the new world order, AI tech and skills are the future. Allow our entrepreneurs to compete globally in sectors we can afford to open. This government's policy must shift toward building the nation's future

A SHIKSHIT BHARAT FOR THE FUTURE

KAPIL SIBAL
Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

SOURAV ROY

I just returned from Dubai. I was amazed at how an arid land, as it once was, has been converted into an international hub—a city throbbing with activity and ever-expanding, with an Emirati population of around 2,55,000, representing less than 12 percent of the total population. The transformation, driven by its policies that welcome investment and make it a safe haven, is phenomenal.

Within the Arab world, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, and others are fast modernising their economies. They are now developing education hubs, embracing technology, leveraging the wealth generated by oil and gas to attract investment, and transforming their economies in a changing and challenging global environment. Dubai, without oil as a resource, has achieved this.

On the other hand, the enormous strides China has made in the last 35 to 40 years are mind-boggling. There was a time in the 1980s when both the Indian and Chinese economies were lagging and part of the less developed world. Today, China is, without doubt, in contention for global leadership. Though the slowdown in their real estate sector and the decline in domestic consumption have negatively impacted their growth, investments in technology and innovation across sectors will catapult China to a leadership position in the world.

The rare earth minerals they possess, necessary for vital sectors of the global economy, give them the leverage they use strategically to withstand the challenges posed by US President Donald Trump as he seeks to transform the global economic order. The US, in the near future, will have to reach a settlement with China on its terms of trade, including the extent of the tariffs to be imposed and a *quid pro quo* for rare earth minerals.

A trip to China makes you marvel at the pace of its economic growth. They are decades ahead of us on all fronts.

I used the UAE and China examples to contrast them with our own country, reflecting on the years the BJP has been in power since 1998. It is quite clear that they had enough time to take bold decisions during this period. The Congress was running a coalition government for 10 years. In contrast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with a brute majority, had enough time to transform the economy if his intent was to truly make India 'Atmanirbhar'. But look at where we are.

In 2023-2024, China overtook the US to become India's top trading partner, and imports from China rose to $101 billion. India relies heavily on Chinese imports for critical industrial raw materials and intermediate goods, including telecommunications hardware and pharmaceutical raw materials. India imported electronic components worth $12 billion from China. Sixty percent of solar equipment is supplied by China to India.

China's technology continues to influence India's digital landscape. Chinese smartphone manufacturers dominate the Indian market, having over 75 percent market share. India's emerging sectors, such as electric vehicles, are heavily dependent on Chinese battery technology and components. As of 2020, 18 unicorn companies in India had over $3,500 million in Chinese investments.

Obviously, China has the capacity to leverage its economic heft over India for political gain. This is apart from the fact that the Chinese have occupied our territory in Ladakh and continue to build infrastructure, making it difficult to ensure the restoration of the *status quo ante*. Yet this government continues to blame the Congress party, despite the fact that over the last 25 years, it has been in power for more than 14 years.

The reason why India is in dire economic straits is that the BJP's focus is only on retaining power through means fair or foul, capturing institutions to do its bidding, and influencing minds through the media to propagate a divisive political agenda that is advantageous to it, but disastrous for the nation.

The recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, where we were the victims, has not won us many friends. Even though delegations representing various political parties reached out to the rest of the world, we did not find a single country blaming Pakistan for what happened in Pahalgam. On the contrary, Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir was hosted by Trump for lunch in Washington, and Saudi Arabia executed a defence agreement with Pakistan. This clearly suggests that our diplomatic manoeuvres have not secured the support we expected from the international community.

In the neighbourhood, we are being hemmed in by China. This, along with China's open support to Pakistan, has put us in a very precarious situation from the standpoint of our defence. The recent US policy decision to sanction Russian companies that supply oil to Reliance has made the situation even more delicate. Trump's constant outbursts about the fact that he was responsible for the ceasefire between India and Pakistan and that Prime Minister Modi 'reported' to him that India would no longer be buying oil from Russian companies by the end of 2025, especially in the absence of a categorical response from our Prime Minister, gives an indication that we have no manoeuvrability in striking a deal with the US in respect of high tariffs imposed by them.

The only thing going for us is that we do have an FTA with the UK, and the European Union is keen to negotiate and finalise an FTA with us. We should use this opportunity to enter into similar FTAs with the rest of the Western world to open our economy and allow our entrepreneurs to compete globally in sectors we can afford to open.

It is, however, imperative that the focus of this government's policy shifts away from divisive politics to truly build a future for our nation.

In the new world order, AI technology and skills are the future. India is a laggard in these areas. 'Viksit Bharat' is a pipe dream. What we need, in the immediate future, is a 'Shikshit Bharat', not a 'divisive Bharat'; a Bharat that needs governance with sincerity; a Bharat not for selling dreams but being rooted in the reality of our times to uplift the millions who continue to be in poverty. This is a Bharat that Modi has failed to build since he came to power.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

THEKUA AND THE DIVINE

RENUKA NARAYANAN
FAITHLINE

TODAY is honoured across a wide swathe of Eastern India as the centrepoint of the four-day Chhath Puja or Surya Shashti Vrat. The word Chhath comes from the Sanskrit word Shashti, meaning 'sixth'. Chhath Puja falls six days after Diwali and is widely observed in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Nepal. A folkloric angle later involved an aspect of the Devi called Chhati Mayi, who grants children to childless parents, and protects them thereafter. But it is essentially an ancient festival in honour of Lord Surya, thanking the sun god for the completed seasonal harvest.

What makes the festival trebly special to devotees is its epic links. It is not a gender-specific festival, though nowadays we see pictures of mostly women performing this puja. However, no less than Sita Devi and Sri Rama are said to have performed Surya Shashti puja after returning from Lanka. Additionally, people in Munger, Bihar, believe that Sita performed this ritual there. Munger, formerly known as Monghyr, was originally Mudgagiri, founded by Chandragupta II in the ancient kingdom of Anga. It was one of the major cities in Eastern India, including undivided Bengal, during the Mughal period and British Raj. It is about 180 km east of Patna and was once the cultural capital of the region. I read that the Sitacharan (Sita's footprints) temple, situated on a boulder in the middle of the Ganga at Munger, is the main centre of public faith for Chhath Puja.

Most practically for today's world, Munger is the centre of the Bihar School of Yoga, established by the spiritual luminaries Swami Sivananda and Swami Satyananda. It celebrated its golden jubilee in 2013 with the World Yoga Convention, attended by delegates from over 56 countries and 23 Indian states. An *akhand jyot*, or eternal flame that was lit there over half a century ago still burns. In a personally meaningful way, the Bihar School of Yoga also deepens our link with Rama, connecting us as it does with Mahavishnu, the Mahayogin (Supreme Yogi) and Yogavidam-neta (the leader of those established in yoga). These are two of his epithets in the Vishnu Sahasra Namam, the Thousand Names of Vishnu. Moreover, in the famous verse 9.22 of the *Bhagavad Gita*, Sri Krishna makes the powerful promise: "*yoga-kṣhemaṁ vahāmyaham*," meaning "I carry the responsibility for the yoga and *kṣhema* of my devotees," where yoga signifies gain and *kshema*, security.

I, too, learnt yoga once from one of the Munger School practitioners and can vouch for its monumentally calm approach. It was not flashy, aggressive yoga, but quietly centred on breathing and a gradual, harmonious flow of movement. Besides energising the body, I found it was deeply restful for the mind, especially an urban mind trying to cope with the toil and stress of our so-called modern lives. I no longer do yoga, though of course, I should, but what thankfully remains with me is the habit of taking deep, quiet breaths when I am stressed. Say, in one of Delhi-NCR's vile traffic jams, or if there is a sudden problem with water, electricity, or the internet—the usual triggers of impatience and annoyance across modern India. So, we could reasonably argue that Munger's epic legacy has remained alive for us not only through the annual ritual of Chhath Puja, which we may or may not observe, but also in our daily lives through the blessing of yoga. And, it is a short step from doing a *surya namaskar* to thinking of Karna and Surya.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

When I discovered that Rama and Sita had performed Chhath Puja, I wondered if they, too, ate *thekua*, & it became 'Ramayana cookie' to me ever after. Just like eating curd rice is never ordinary if we recall that this was the packed lunch that Mother Yashoda gave Krishna

In the *Mahabharata*, Karna, as we know, was the King of Anga and had a special relationship with Surya. He is said to have performed this puja ahead of the Battle of Kurukshetra, wading into the river to pray and make his offerings. This practice remains an essential ritual of the festival to this day. Draupadi and the Pandavas are also said to have performed the Surya Shashti puja.

No festival is complete without its special food, and the offering for Chhath Puja is *thekua*. This ancient cookie is found in Bihar, Jharkhand, eastern Uttar Pradesh and southern Nepal. It's a deep-fried biscuit, crunchy on the outside and soft on the inside, typically made with wheat flour and jaggery, often flavoured with fennel and cardamom. It is pressed into pretty wooden moulds shaped like leaves and flowers before being fried. It's available online if you're interested.

I first tasted *thekua* courtesy of a Bihari friend and found it delicious, a simple but attractively presented treat. It can stay fresh in airtight containers for a month, and if made with wheat flour (not maida), jaggery (not refined sugar), and pure ghee (not oil), it has nutritional value, too. When I discovered that Rama and Sita had performed Chhath Puja, I wondered if they, too, ate *thekua*, and it became 'Ramayana cookie' to me ever after.

Just like eating curd rice is never ordinary if we recall that this was the packed lunch that Mother Yashoda gave Krishna when he went to graze the cows with the *gopa* boys. Vyasa says in the *Srimad Bhagavatam*, "*Vaamey paney masrula kabalam tad phalan aangulishu*", meaning, 'His left hand held the ball of curd rice (on a leaf) and in the fingers of his other hand, he held the accompaniment', which was either lemon or mango pickle. One cannot help but feel charmed and elated to think that we still eat the food Rama and Krishna ate, and it's quite marvellous how our festivals keep the magic alive in so many ways.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Modi-Trump hush

Ref: *The diplomatic dance of avoidance* (Oct 26). As pointed out, Narendra Modi and Donald Trump's camaraderie has dramatically cooled down. Trump's often repeated boasting has now become nauseating. For how long can the duo avoid each other? It's better to meet and end the stalemate.
M Haneef, Kottayam

Disinformation sources

Ref: *To believe or not* (Oct 26) There is an urgent need to clasp social media platforms since their claws are exploiting vulnerabilities with seamless streaming and information morphing. Rumours and propaganda continue to target and influence the public with malicious intent despite policy regulations.
H Syed Othuman, Tirunelveli

Silencing critics

Ref: *Sydney bows down* (Oct 26). Expecting Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to start performing from the first match after a long and extended layoff, like some automatons thought, was a bit unfair. They have given a fitting reply to their critics and also endeared themselves to their fans.
S Kamat, Mysore

Hardened criminals

Ref: *Oz cricketers 'stalked, one molested'* (Oct 26). No wonder why such crimes continue to be committed in our country. The authorities responsible for letting such criminals move around freely should be blamed for such occurrences and they should not go scot-free.
R Kasthurirangan, Bengaluru

PK factor

Ref: *No need to fear any leader or party* (Oct 26). The Rashtriya Janata Dal-led Mahagathbandhan has been turned into 'Latbandhan' due to Prashant Kishor's entry. Added to it, the 20-strong Red Army has already muddied the waters and the struggle for power may turn bloody. Bihar may turn out like post-Mahabharata Hastinapur unless the voters make the right choice.
Vuppu Raghavendra Rao, email

LIC transparency

Ref: *Congress demands PAC probe into LIC* (Oct 26). Only a forensic investigation by a parliamentary commission-backed audit can find out whether all norms have been adhered to for such huge private placements. The Centre owes the nation a convincing explanation on the investments made by all public entities in the Adani Group.
Tharcius S Fernando, Chennai

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
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POSTS OF THE DAY

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Every scheme of the BJP government is made only to 'earn' commission, not to 'run'. BJP-made airports are also BJP-like. Meaning, just for show, actually hot air.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
This time he (Trump) has said that India will zero the imports of Russian oil. No wonder Mr. Modi's huglomacy is not visible today in Kuala Lumpur.

Anuraag Thakur @ianuragthakur
Modi Ji had already decided right after becoming PM that he wouldn't allow any game to be played with the players. Sports are for the players, not for offidals, politics, and nepotism...

Boeing 787 pilots fume as DGCA extends duty hours

Association says move poses fatigue risk, endangers passenger safety

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

IN response to the need to reroute flights due to closure of Pakistan airspace, the aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has permitted the extension of the Flight Duty Period (FDP) by one hour on select Boeing 787 flights from Sunday.

The move has invited enormous criticism from a leading pilot body which has demanded immediate withdrawal of the order.

The FDP has been extended to 14 hours from the existing13 hours on eight Dreamliner flights which operate with two crew members. FDP is the time during which a flight crew member is on duty for the purpose of operating an aircraft.

It starts when the crew is required to report for flight duty and ends when the aircraft comes to rest at the end of the final flight and the engines are shut down.

The regulator has also extended the flight time by 30 minutes – from 10 hrs to 10.30 hrs. "The exemptions will be valid from October 26, 2025 upto March 31, 2026," the DGCA said.

Air India is the only airline which presently operates the Boeing 787 model. This was the same model involved in the horrific Ahmedabad crash on June 12 this year. The order adds that the crew must be provided an additional one hour rest at the layover station.

The regulator states, "The exemption is to prevent passenger inconvenience, flight disruptions and downstream roster irregularities." It has also stated that no flight training must be permitted in this sector.

Airlines can implement this extension in specific flights on the international sector – Delhi to Copenhagan, Delhi to Milan, Delhi to France (two flights) Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, London Gatwick to Amritsar, Delhi to Zurich and Birmingham to Amritsar. The Airline Pilot Association of India has strongly condemned the move stating that it poses a fatigue risk and thereby endangers passenger and flight safety. "The existing 10-hour limit is already on the upper threshold of safe fatigue management," it pointed out.

'Crew must be provided an additional one hour rest'

The order adds that the crew must be provided an additional one hour rest at the layover station. Airlines can implement this extension in specific flights on the international sector – Delhi to Copenhagan, Delhi to Milan, Delhi to France (two flights) Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, London Gatwick to Amritsar, Delhi to Zurich and Birmingham to Amritsar.

First flight from India to China takes off after over 5 years' gap amid thaw

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

AFTER a five-and-a-half-year hiatus, the flight service from India to China resumed from Kolkata's Netaji Subhash Chandra Airport on Sunday night.

The A320 neo aircraft, which had a good occupancy, departed for Guangzhou in Southern China at 10 pm. This marks the resumption of flights between the two nations after services were stopped in early 2020 due to Covid-19. An airline executive told this reporter, "The passenger occupancy is almost full in the flight which has a seating capacity of 186. The flight has a total journey time of four-and-a-half hours. It will reach Guangzhou at 4.30 am (China time). It is a daily service."

Yu Jing, spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India posted on X, "Direct flights between China and India are now a reality." Union Ministry of Civil Aviation earlier announced that flights between India and China will resume direct air services by October end.

Kolkata airport director P R Beuria said, "revival of direct route would not only strengthen business and tourism ties but also provide greater convenience to passenger travelling between the two cities.

An official release from Kolkata airport said, "The Kolkata-Guangzhou flight will operate daily, non-stop, further reinforcing Kolkata's position as a key international aviation hub in Eastern India."

Indigo's flight from Delhi to Guangzhou will start on November 10, the airline had announced.

Pieter Elbers, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo, had earliers stated, "We are delighted to announce the resumption of daily, non-stop flights between India and mainland China. We are proud to be amongst the first to resume direct connectivity to China from two points in India. This will once again allow seamless movement of people, goods, and ideas, while also strengthening bilateral ties between the two of the world's most populous countries and fast-growing economies. With this very important step, we are looking at introducing more direct flights into China."

INSIDER TRACK

CEC turns to Seshan rule book

Is Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar subtly drawing lessons from T N Seshan's playbook? Kumar has reportedly instructed Bihar's poll machinery to provide separate enclosures for purdanasheen women voters and to deploy female polling staff to ensure no woman skips the ballot box due to privacy concerns. Seasoned observers recall a similar move in 1994, when the strict martinet that Seshan was ordered to station lady poll officers at booths with predominantly women voters or where the purdah system was in practice. Kumar's order may lack Seshan-style thunder—no threats of suspension or dramatic sound bites yet—but it signals a hint of that no-nonsense spirit in Nirvachan Sadan again. Whether inspiration or coincidence, one thing's sure: Seshan's shadow now looms over the EVM era.

Raj wants its officers back—literally

Rajasthan has made an unprecedented request to the Centre: Send our officers back! The SOS follows an acute shortage of senior bureaucrats. The state government has asked the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to repatriate two of its IAS officers, Rohit Kumar (1997 batch) and Siddharth Mahajan (2003 batch), currently on central deputation. While Delhi encourages states to send more officers for central postings—the Centre's deputation reserve is reportedly down to 29%—Jaipur appears to have reached its limit. Currently, 23 Rajasthan-cadre officers are serving in Delhi, and one is on inter-cadre deputation. Another officer, P.C. Kishan, has already requested to return for personal reasons. The message from Rajasthan's bureaucracy is clear: it wants its officers—and influence—back home.

RJD scheme finds its digital voice

From mocking technology to mastering it — the RJD seems to have come full circle. Party supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, famous for once asking, "Ye IT-bite kya hota hai", might be getting used to his party leading digital campaigns with catchy acronyms. To attract women voters, Tejashwi Yadav has launched the MAA-BETI schemes—MAA stands for Makaan (house), Ann (grains), Aamdani (income), while BETI represents Benefits, Education, Training, Income. The NDA was quick to mock the idea, calling it "lofty words from a party that overlooked mothers and daughters while in power". Tejashwi has pledged ₹30,000 a year under this plan, while the NDA highlights that it has already started transferring ₹10,000 to women's accounts. Ultimately, Bihar's Maa, Beti, and Bahus will determine the outcome on counting day.

Cabinet rejig buzz post Bihar polls

As the Bihar Assembly polls enter their final stages, discussions in Delhi are focusing on a possible post-election Cabinet reshuffle. A senior NDA MP believes the process is nearly underway, though no timeline is known yet. If the NDA fares well, at least two Bihar leaders who helped stitch together the alliance and seat-sharing deal are tipped for berths in the Modi Cabinet, possibly as Ministers of State in Education, Rural Development, Tourism, or Civil Aviation. The potential reshuffle window under discussion runs from November 19 to 25, just before the Winter Session opens. "Bihar's results will decide a lot, from Cabinet composition to alliance dynamics," said an insider. This winter, Patna's influence could reach Raisina Hill.

Triple-engine govt, and yet...

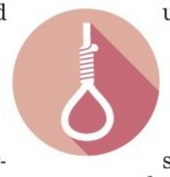
A Delhi BJP functionary recently experienced a setback when his compact SUV was stolen from outside his West Delhi residence five months ago. Despite filing FIRs, following up, and leveraging connections, there has been no progress. Adding insult to injury, party colleagues can't resist needling him: "Triple engine sarkar hai — Centre, State, and MCD -- fir bhi gaadi gayi!" The leader, though visibly irked, insists he has faith that the Delhi Police will solve the case "soon". Until then, his missing SUV remains the running joke at every party.

'Institutional murder': Rahul hits out at Maha govt over doctor's suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday attacked Maharashtra's Devendra Fadnavis-led Mahayuti government following the suspected suicide of a woman doctor in the Satara district, alleging that it is a case of "institutionalised murder".

In one of his 'X' posts Gandhi said, the doctor's death exposed the "inhumane and insensitive" face of the Fadnavis administration and also lamented that a promising medical practitioner, who had dedicated herself to alleviating the suffering of others, had become a victim of persecution by criminals entrenched within a corrupt system.



"The suicide of Dr Sampada Munde in Satara, Maharashtra, driven to despair by rape and harassment, is a tragedy that shakes the conscience of any civilized society. A promising doctor daughter, who aspired to alleviate the pain of others, became a victim of the persecution by criminals entrenched in a corrupt system and power structure," the Leader of Opposition in his social media post said, adding that his party stood firmly with the victim's family.

He went on to pose a question saying: "When power becomes a shield for criminals, from whom can justice be expected?" He said that the "death exposes the inhumane and insensitive face of this BJP government."

Reportedly, a note found on the hand of the doctor, whose body was discovered in Satara on Friday, named a police officer and two other individuals, claiming they had driven her to take her own life through sustained physical and mental harassment.

Satara Police have since arrested two people, identified as Police Sub-Inspector Gopal Badne and Prashant Bankar. A case has been registered against the pair under allegations of rape and aiding and abetting suicide. The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) has condemned the death of their colleague and called for an immediate and transparent inquiry into the incident.

CDS on six-day Indonesia visit to deepen security ties

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

TO further bolster ties between the two nations, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan reached Indonesia on Sunday for an official visit. This high-level visit continues the trend of consistent bilateral meetings of the top political and military leaders.

Confirming the visit, the Indian Embassy in Jakarta announced on its official social media X account that the CDS will be in Indonesia from October 26-31. The embassy underlined that the visit is aimed at further deepening the defence cooperation between India and Indonesia, — designated as Comprehensive Strategic Partners.

The bilateral ties were elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018. "During his visit, the CDS will engage in wide ranging discussions with military leadership in Indonesia and with key defence industry stakeholders", the embassy added. CDS is the senior most Indian military officer.

The bilateral defence and security cooperation between India and Indonesia picked up further during the state visit of Prabowo Subianto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, from January 23-26.

During his visit, CDS will engage in wide ranging discussions with military leadership in Indonesia and with key defence industry stakeholders — Indian Embassy in Jakarta

President Subianto was the Chief Guest at India's 76th Republic Day parade this year. During the visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Prabowo held comprehensive discussions covering the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation, including political, defence and security, maritime, economic, health and pharmaceuticals, food and energy security, digital transition, sustainable energy transition, blue economy as well as education and cultural cooperation.

The presidential delegation included Indonesian Navy Chief Admiral (Adm.) Muhammad Ali. The Indonesian Navy Chief had held bilateral discussions with the Chief of the Naval Staff Adm Dinesh K Tripathi to strengthen maritime ties between the two countries.

This meeting came shortly after Adm. Tripathi's four-day official visit to Indonesia in December '24 to consolidate bilateral defence relations between the two nations.

Op Sindoor success makes festivals vibrant: PM

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described the Chhath festival, being widely observed across Bihar and other states, as reflecting India's cultural and social unity, with devotees from all castes performing rituals together.

In his monthly radio programme, 'Maan Ki Baat', Modi extended greetings on Chhath puja and said festivals have become more vibrant this year due to success of Operation Sindoor and steps taken to eradicate the Maoist menace.

"The Mahaparva of Chhath is a reflection of the deep unity between culture, nature, and society. Every section of society comes together at the Chhath ghats," the PM said. "This sight is the most beautiful example of India's social unity. No matter where you are, within the country or in any corner of the world, if you get the opportunity, do participate in the Chhath festival," he said.

The PM said the achievements of the country have made the festive season more vibrant. "Operation Sindoor has filled every Indian with

pride. This time around, lamps of joy were lit even in those areas where the darkness of Maoist terror once prevailed," he said. "People want the complete eradication of Maoist terror that had jeopardised the future of their children," he added.

The PM expressed happiness that security forces have increased the number of indigenous breeds of dogs in their contingents after he had previously suggested this in the same broadcast. He praised Gujarat's mangrove revolution, which has led to the return of dolphins. "This mangrove plantation, which began five years ago in Dholera near Ahmedabad, has now spread across 3,500 hectares," he said.

Modi spoke about the unifying patriotic essence of Vande Mataram. "The Vande Mataram ignites boundless emotion and pride in every India's heart," he said, expressing gratitude to its creator Bamkimchandra Chattopadhyay. The PM noted that the country will mark 150 years of Vande Mataram on November 7, adding that it was first sung by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896.

He spoke about the growing global demand for Indian coffee and lauded the "unparalleled services" of Sardar Patel for the unity and integrity of the nation. "Sardar Patel has been one of the greatest personalities of the nation in modern times. His great personality contained many qualities. I request you all to join Run for Unity to be held on October 31."

Modi said, "On social media, we can see many reels featuring young people speaking in Sanskrit and about Sanskrit. Many even teach Sanskrit through their social media channels." He paid tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

C'garh initiative on plastic waste gets Modi praise

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi in his 127th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday praised the initiative adopted in Ambikapur, north Chhattisgarh, to make the city free from plastic waste.

PM cited the 'Garbage Café' operated by Ambikapur Municipal Corporation as a singular blend of cleanliness and service, where people receivefood in exchange of plastic waste.

He stated that under this initiative, if a person deposits one kilogram of plastic waste, they receive a meal, while half a kilogram earns them a snack. This step serves as an inspiring example of social awareness and cooperation. This newspaper had earlier reported how any citizen can now walk in with a load of plastic and be treated with a free meal in the unique restaurant in Ambikapur.

WAVES Bazaar puts Indian women filmmakers on global map in Toronto

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

UNDER the ministry of information and broadcasting (Mi&B) flagship international markets platform— WAVES Bazaar—six Indian filmmakers helming women-led projects represented the country at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2025, held last month. The initiative, spearheaded by Women in Film (WIF) India and supported by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), marked a significant step in showcasing the creativity and vision of Indian women filmmakers on a global stage.

The filmmakers —Arshaly Jose, Deepa Bhatia, Katyayani Kumar, Madhumita Sundararaman, Paromita Dhar, and Pramati Anand were chosen from over 200 entries within a week-long nationwide call.

The ministry officials described the development as a defining moment for India's creative community.

"For the first time, six Indian filmmakers helming women-led projects represented the country at one of the world's most influential film forums. The delegation spotlighted stories that were regional, rooted, and real from Kerala and Manipur to Maharashtra and Delhi proving that India's creative diversity knows no boundaries," said ministry officials.

World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) is an event focused on establishing India as a key hub for the media and entertainment industry. The maiden took place in Mumbai in May. WAVES Bazaar is a dedicated platform for companies to showcase their products and services, explore collaborations, and establish new partnerships.

Over the past year, WAVES Bazaar has evolved into a vital bridge between Indian content creators and international studios - facilitating co-productions, global distribution deals, and strategic collaborations across continents, added officials.

WIF India Founder and Academy Award-winning producer Guneet Monga Kapoor described the collaboration as "a dream realized."

Kerala-based filmmaker Arshaly Jose shared, "Pitching to international producers and distributors showed me that my stories could travel beyond borders. For the first time, I felt I truly belonged."

Similarly, Deepa Bhatia reflected, "It was the little thoughtful things from mentorship to wellbeing that made this experience special. WIF and WAVES are clearly shaking up the industry."

IN CUFFS

One person was arrested from West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district in connection with the alleged attempt to burn a youth alive in South Dum Dum area, an officer said on Sunday.

3 KILLED AS SUV RAMS INTO TRUCK IN UP'S JAUNPUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	24	23	Mumbai	31	27
Bhopal	27	21	Panaji	30	26
Jaipur	24	20	Patna	31	25
Amritsar	29	17	Lucknow	28	21
Chennai	27	25	Port Blair	28	27
Kolkata	34	27	Imphal	28	20
Srinagar	21	06	Chandigarh	29	16

• Says Nitish neglected Seemanchal, promises Development Authority • JD(U) says Anjum Islamia Hall transformed into a palace under Nitish

Waqf Act to be repealed if INDIA bloc wins: Tejashwi

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

RJD leader and Opposition chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Prasad Yadav on Sunday said that if INDIA bloc comes to power, Waqf (Amendment) Act would be repealed.

Addressing rallies in Muslim-dominated Katihar and Kishanganj districts in Seemanchal, he said, "If we are voted to power, Waqf Bill will be thrown into dustbin." He reminded that his father Lalu Prasad never compromised with communal forces and accused CM Nitish Kumar of compromising with these forces. "Nitish Kumar is sitting in the lap of RSS and BJP, who spread communal hatred in the state and country," he alleged, adding that BJP actually stands for 'Bharat Jalao Party'.

He said those who abuse minority community and claim that they don't need their votes, were asking him whether there will be a Muslim deputy CM or in his cabinet, if NIDIA bloc forms government.

The Waqf (Amendment) Act was passed by Parliament in April this year. The NDA described the Act as a force for transparency and empowerment of backward Muslims and women from the community. The Opposition described the Act was an interference in the rights of the people.

'Will ensure pension to panchayati raj representatives'

Tejashwi has vowed to double the allowances of the representatives of Bihar's panchayati raj system, if INDIA wins. "Representatives of panchayats and gram kachahari (village courts) will receive a pension. They would also enjoy a ₹50-lakh insurance coverage. We will also hike the margin of those working as part of the public distribution network.

On Saturday, RJD MLC Mohammad Quari Sohaib raked up a row by claiming that if Tejashwi would become CM, all Bills passed by Parliament and Bihar assembly, including Waqf Act would be torn apart.

Tejashwi said Bihar people have got tired of Nitish government, which is in power for last 20 years. "CM is not in his senses, which is obvious from his activities on public stages. Corruption is at its peak and law and order machinery has collapsed," he added.

He alleged that the NDA government led by Nitish Kumar did nothing done for the welfare of Seemanchal region. He promised to set up the Seemanchal Development Authority for the overall development of the region, which shares its border with Nepal," he said.

Tejashwi alleged that what he promised to people the same was being implemented by the NDA government. "They can copy my poll assurances but no our idea," he asserted.

Earlier, Tejashwi promised to double the allowances of the representatives of Bihar's Panchayati Raj system, if the INDIA bloc was voted to power.

DECODE BIHAR POLL DECIDE

RJD leader misleading Muslims for votes: NDA

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE NDA sharply reacted to Opposition chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Prasad Yadav's recent announcement to double panchayat representatives' honorarium, provide pension with security cover of ₹50 lakh and repeal Waqf (Amendment) Act if INDIA bloc was voted to power.

Union MoS for Home Nityanand Rai said that state has no role to play in repeal of any Act passed by the parliament. "Tejashwi is trying to mislead people by making such declaration. Obviously, it is aimed at appeasing Muslim voters ahead of election," he said.

National spokesperson of BJP's OBC Morcha Nikhil Anand also criticised Tejashwi over his poll promises and announcement to repeal Waqf Amendment Act. "RJD does not believe in the Constitution and parliament. There is nothing like Triple Talaq or Waqf even in Islamic countries. The party is misleading the Muslim community."

JD(U) principal spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said, "When the Bill has been passed by parliament and Supreme Court has considered it, who has the right to make any altercation in the Act. RJD chief Lalu Prasad should answer why he ruined Anjum Islamia Hall."

JD(U) expels 16 rebels, including MLA, ahead of polls

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) has expelled 16 rebel leaders from the party ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. A sitting MLA and two former ones are among the leaders who have been shown the door by the JD(U) for allegedly engaging in activities against the party and violating its ideology.

Neeraj said that it was during Nitish Kumar's regime that the Anjum Islamia Hall has been transformed into a palace. "Making poll promises will serve not purpose as people are well aware of their character," the JD(U) spokesperson told the media.

Earlier, JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said, "For 15 years, Lalu Ji and Rabri Devi Ji did nothing for the people of Bihar, especially for Muslims. RJD has only used Muslims as support base (read vote bank). If they have done anything significant during their governance, they should put them in the public domain."

Union minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha patron Jitan Ram Manjhi hit out at Tejashwi and said that people of Bihar are politically awakened and will not fall for this 'trap'.

"This man cannot do anything and has only been misleading people forever. During the Lok Sabha polls, they said the Constitution was in danger, and this tactic worked to some extent, which is why the NDA won fewer seats. They are again forming such a narrative," Manjhi added.

Cong to step up campaign after festival, Rahul to lead charge on Oct 29, 30

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Sunday announced that it would launch its Bihar election campaign immediately after Chhath Puja with an aim to intensify efforts for the INDIA bloc. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi would lead the charge on October 29 and 30.

Senior party leaders, including MP from Wayanad Priyanka Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, will also tour key constituencies across the state in days to come. AICC general secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal told the reporters that the momentum gained from the August Voter Adhikar Yatra, would further be consolidated in favour of INDIA block candidates.

He said, "Our campaign will kick off right after Chhath Puja, with Rahul Gandhi's visit on October 29 and 30. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Mallikarjun Kharge will also be actively touring Bihar to connect with voters."

Venugopal, who is also considered a close aide of Gandhi, is among several senior party leaders who are camping in the poll-bound state to fine-tune the party's strategy, besides diffusing the crisis in its rank and file, which has come to the fore with many workers alleging that tickets were "put up for sale".

Recently, former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot had reportedly acknowledged this issue but urged restraint, saying: "In every election, many aspire for tickets and get disappointed when those hopes aren't fulfilled. I appeal to all party workers to hold back grievances until the elections conclude."

Parties reach out to Chhath returnees

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

WITH nearly 60–70 lakh of the expected 87–89 lakh Biharis returning home for the Chhath festival on October 27 and 28 — barely a week before the first phase of polling — political watchers expect a surge in voter turnout during the November 6 and 11 assembly elections across Bihar's 243 constituencies.

Many of these returnees are likely to stay on and vote, especially in districts that recorded low polling in 2020. Political parties, sensing their electoral weight, are going all out to woo them. The BJP, JD(U), and RJD are urging migrant workers to "stay back and vote," portraying it as a duty to ensure a better future for Bihar. The returnees, mostly labourers and small employees working in factories, construction sites, and offices across India, are now seen as a decisive voter bloc.

"The majority of those who have come back belong to Scheduled Castes and marginalised communities whose families benefit from government welfare schemes. Their womenfolk will certainly think of the NDA, not the RJD," said a BJP leader.

PTI

RJD leaders counter this claim sharply. "Those who face hardship outside Bihar due to unemployment and poor development over 20 years of NDA rule will never vote for the NDA," said a senior RJD functionary.

The Opposition has made joblessness a central campaign issue, while the ruling NDA is citing data on job creation and social welfare to blunt the attack. Both camps are actively reaching out to returning migrants through local networks, meetings, and WhatsApp groups.

Districts such as Purnia, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Saharsa, Sitamarhi, Gaya, Jehanabad, Saran, Motihari, Jamui, Nawada, and Aurangabad — all major hubs of outmigration — are expected to see higher participation this time.

Poll analysts believe the Kosi region, plagued by recurrent floods and high migration, could witness a sharp rise in voting, with nearly half of the returnees expected to stay through election day. Similar trends are anticipated in the Tirhut and Purnia divisions, depending on migrants' ability to sustain themselves economically after Chhath. According to estimates, around 2.5 to 3.1 crore Biharis work outside the state, including 80–90 lakh who migrate annually for work as labourers, masons, mechanics, and other trades.

"Those who feel humiliated or exploited in other states are less likely to vote for parties aligned with those governments," admitted a senior NDA leader, requesting anonymity. "But the trust in Modi and the work done by Nitish Kumar may convince many returnees to back the NDA this time," he added.

Migrants expected to boost voter turnout

Many of these returnees are likely to stay on and vote, especially in districts that recorded low polling in 2020. Political parties, sensing their electoral weight, are going all out to woo them. The BJP, JD(U) and RJD are urging migrant workers to "stay back and vote," portraying it as a duty to ensure a better future for Bihar. The returnees, mostly labourers and small employees working in factories, construction sites, and offices across India, are now seen as a decisive voter bloc.

5 kids HIV+ after blood transfusion in Jharkhand; civil surgeon suspended

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

CM Hemant Soren has ordered suspension of the Civil Surgeon and other officials at Sadar Hospital in West Singhbhum district after five children contracted HIV following transfusions with infected blood. The matter came to light after the family of one of the affected children lodged a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner and the state government.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), the Chief Minister also announced to provide financial assistance of ₹2 lakh each to the families of the affected children in addition to free treatment to the victims. "Following reports of HIV-infected blood being transfused to children suffering from Thalassemia in Chaibasa, instructions have been given to suspend the West Singhbhum Civil Surgeon and other concerned officials," he shared in his X post.

Notably, a seven-year-old child suffering from thalassemia was given infected blood on September 3 and was tested positive for HIV on October 18.

HC took suo motu action, sought detailed report

A seven-year-old child suffering from thalassemia was given infected blood on September 3 and was tested positive for HIV on October 18. Taking suo motu cognisance, the Jharkhand HC ordered a probe and sought a detailed report. It was then found that four more children have been given infected blood and were found to be HIV positive.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the incident, the Jharkhand High Court ordered an urgent probe into the matter and sought a detailed report from the state health department.

The court also directed officials to take strict accountability measures and prevent any further lapses.

Following the court's directive, a high-level medical investigation team from Ranchi visited Chaibasa on Saturday to inspect the hospital's blood bank and related facilities.

During the investigation, it was discovered that four more children have been given infected blood and were found to be HIV positive. Two of these children are still admitted to the PICU ward of Sadar Hospital.

21 Maoists lay down arms in C'garh district

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

TWENTY-one cadres, including 13 women, of the banned outfit CPI (Maoist) surrendered along with 18 weapons in Chhattisgarh's Kanker on Sunday.

The surrendered cadres are from the Kuemari/Kiskodo Area Committee of Keshkal Division (North Sub Zonal Bureau) including division committee secretary Mukesh.

"Yet another significant task under the 'Poona Margham: Rehabilitation through Reintegration' initiative was accomplished in Kanker (north Bastar region) today. As many as 21 Maoist cadres decided to shun the path of armed movement, renounced the ideology based on violence and joined the social mainstream to live a dignified life", said Sundarraj Pattlingam, Bastar Range IGP.

"Official legal procedures are being carried out for the rehabilitation and reintegration of all 21 cadres," said the IG.

Meghalaya statistician in Stanford's top 2% scientists list for 5th yr in a row

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

WITH barely three months left for his retirement, a statistics teacher at St Anthony's College in Meghalaya's Shillong, Sanku Dey, is topping off his career by securing a place on Stanford University's list of the top 2% of scientists in the world for the fifth year in a row.

Of the 1.17 crore researchers evaluated globally, only an estimated 2.34 lakh made it to the list, which included 23,549 statisticians. He has been ranked at 54,006 on the list, finding the 267th spot among statisticians. The certificate mentions mathematics and statistics as his main field. Notably, he is the first one from the Northeast to achieve this feat.

In 2021, his global ranking among the 2% of scientists was 1,04,260. It went up to 1,07,863 in 2022. He improved in 2023 with a rank of 51,491 but then slipped to 57,410 in 2024.

Stanford's 2% list is developed with Elsevier, a Dutch academic publishing company that provides scientific, technical and medical information solutions. The exercise entails identifying acclaimed researchers based on standardised bibliometric indicators like total citations and h-index scores. Data from the Scopus database is used in the process. The list features researchers with significant impact and excellence, representing 2% of all scientists worldwide.

Mathematics and statistics are interconnected. We rely on statistics from morning till night. We need statistics for planning, budgeting and everything. If you are not good at mathematics, you cannot teach statistics.

Sanku Dey, Professor

A postgraduate in statistics from Gauhati University, Dey is the youngest of five siblings—all men. He did his schooling at his birthplace, Kharupetia, a small town in Assam's Darrang.

His teaching career spans three decades, during which he has taught at Kokrajhar College, Gauhati University, Banaras Hindu University and Saudi Arabia's King Abdulaziz University. His stint at St Anthony's College began in 2000. He now heads the Department of Statistics there.

Ask Dey about his passion for the subject, and pat comes his reply: "It was only when I was doing my honours in the subject that I fell in love with it. I cannot tell you why I pursued my education in statistics. I just picked it. Now when I ask my students this question, even they cannot give me an answer."

JAIPUR DIARY

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
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Infighting mars search for dist Congress chiefs

Factionalism has again gripped the state Congress as it begins selecting district presidents under Rahul Gandhi's consultation formula. Meetings in over ten districts turned chaotic, with heated arguments, slogans, and open clashes between rival camps. The tug-of-war between groups loyal to Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot, and Govind Singh Dotasara is clearly visible and has left observers struggling to maintain order. Alarmed by the discord, the Congress high command convened a meeting in Delhi, where KC Venugopal reviewed feedback from 30 state observers.

Ex-minister defends son after Audi crash

Days after the minor son of former minister Rajkumar Sharma crashed his Audi into a Swift leaving two people injured in Jaipur's Pratap Nagar, a viral video shows the teenager boasting about his political connections and allegedly trying to intimidate bystanders after the incident. He reportedly assaulted the victims, too. Defending his son, Sharma said, "My son did not threaten or intimidate anyone. He only revealed his name to calm the crowd." Whether that was an act of self-defence or a display of power is a question only the father and son can answer.

₹1-crore mare Nagina cynosure of Pushkar fair

The world-famous Pushkar cattle fair has kicked off with a royal display of camels, horses, and proud owners showing off their prized animals. But this year, all eyes are on Nagina—a dazzling mare valued at a jaw-dropping ₹1 crore. Nagina is the offsprin of legendary horse Dilbag, stands 63.5 inches tall and has already won four major shows in Punjab. Her luxury routine includes 2 to 5 litres of milk daily, massages twice a day, and round-the-clock veterinary care, even mosquito protection! Another head-turner is Brahmadev- the offspring of Dana, a horse once bought by industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

6.5 tonnes
of cocaine seized by Spain on boat off Canary Islands

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	32	19	SNY
Colombo	29	25	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	33	25	TDS	Moscow	28	13	SNY
Dubai	44	28	SNY	New York	26	15	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	32	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	23	13	SNY
London	20	13	SNY	Washington	26	14	SNY

US, China reach framework deal to avert tariffs

Preliminary consensus on China easing export controls on rare earths, buying US soybeans

KUALA LUMPUR

A TRADE deal between the United States and China is drawing closer, officials from the world's two largest economies said Sunday as they reached an initial consensus for President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to aim to finalise during their high-stakes meeting.

Any agreement would be a relief to international markets even it does not address underlying issues involving manufacturing imbalances and access to state-of-the-art computer chips. Beijing recently limited exports of rare earth elements that are needed for advanced technologies, and

Donald Trump addresses during the ASEAN US Summit | AP

Trump responded by threatening additional tariffs on Chinese products. The prospect of a widening conflict risked weakening economic growth worldwide.

China's top trade negotiator, Li Chenggang, told reporters that the two sides had reached a "preliminary consensus," while Trump's treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, said there was "a very successful framework." Trump also expressed confidence that an agreement was at hand, saying the Chinese "want to make a deal and we want to make a deal." The Republican president is set to meet with Xi on Thursday in South Korea, the final stop of his trip through Asia. Trump reiterated that he plans to visit China in the future and suggested that Xi could come to Washington or Mar-a-Lago, Trump's private club in Florida.

Bessent told CBS' "Face the Nation" that the threat of additional higher tariffs on China was "effectively off the table." In interviews on several American news shows, he said discussions with China yielded initial agreements to stop the precursor chemicals for fentanyl from coming into the US, and that Beijing would make "substantial" purchases of soybean and other agricultural products while putting off export controls on rare earths.

The progress toward a potential agreement came during the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in Kuala Lumpur, with Trump seeking to burnish his reputation as an international dealmaker.

Yet his way of pursuing deals has meant serious disruptions at home and abroad. *AP*

East Timor joins ASEAN, gains $3.8 tn market access

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations welcomed East Timor as its newest member on Sunday, which its prime minister said was a "dream realised" for the tiny nation. Meanwhile, Cambodia and Thailand signed an agreement expanding a ceasefire on their borders with the hope it will lead to a lasting peace.

"Today, history is made," Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao told the other leaders as the flag of East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, was added to the other 10 on the stage at a formal ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

It was ASEAN's first expansion since the 1990s and was more than a decade in the making. "For the people of Timor Leste this is not only a dream realized, but a powerful affirmation of our journey — one marked by resilience, determination and hope," he said.

The ceremony marked the opening of ASEAN's annual summit, followed by two days of high-level engagements with key partners including China, Japan, India, Australia, Russia, South Korea and the U.S.

East Timor's accession to ASEAN gives the country, which has just 1.4 million people and a GDP of around $2 billion, better access to an economic community of nations with some 680 million people and a $3.8 trillion economy.

East Timor's President Jose Ramos-Horta, left, and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto greet each other during the 47th ASEAN summit opening ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | AP

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, whose country holds the bloc's rotating chairmanship, said East Timor's accession "completes the ASEAN family, the affirming of our shared destiny and deep sense of regional kinship."

He said ASEAN's goal was to "pursue growth that is both resilient and fair, and to safeguard the welfare of generations to come."

The integration of the region's youngest nation, and one of its poorest, demonstrates ASEAN's "inclusivity and adaptability, especially at a time of geopolitical flux," said Angeline Tan, an analyst with Malaysia's Institute of Strategic & International Studies: "As protectionism is on the rise, the expansion of ASEAN demonstrates its commitment to regionalism, openness and equal participation," she said. *AP*

Pak, Afghan hold second day of talks; Don vows to find solution

ISLAMABAD

US President Donald Trump said Sunday he will solve the Afghanistan-Pakistan crisis "very quickly," as peace talks between the warring neighbors entered a second day.

The two countries are embroiled in a bitter security row, with each side saying they were responding to aggression from the other during clashes earlier this month.

It was the deadliest fighting between them in several years, marking a low point in relations while also causing alarm in a region where armed groups like al-Qaida are trying to resurface. Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of turning a blind eye to militants who cross the border for attacks, a charge the country's Taliban rulers reject. The second round of talks between them began in Istanbul on Saturday, focusing on transforming a fragile ceasefire, achieved earlier this month in Doha, into a durable framework for peace and border security.

"I heard that Pakistan and Afghanistan have started up," said Trump on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia. "But I'll get that solved very quickly."

He made the comments while attending the signing of the Thailand–Cambodia peace agreement, adding that the leaders of Pakistan were "great people." *AP*

Russia launches drone strikes on Kyiv, hitting residential areas, leaving 3 dead

KYIV

RUSSIA targeted Ukraine's capital with drones, killing three people in their homes, authorities said early on Sunday.

At least 29 people were wounded, seven of them children, in the second consecutive nighttime attack on Kyiv to claim civilian lives. Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said a 19-year-old woman and her 46-year-old mother were among the killed.

Russian drones caused fires in two residential buildings in the capital's Desnianskyi district. Emergency crews evacuated civilians from a nine-story and a 16-story building, put out flames and cleared the rubble.

Olha Yevhenivha, 74, said there was so much smoke from the fire that she couldn't leave her apartment. "Even until now our windows are totally black from the smoke, and it was impossible to go down, so that's why we put wet blankets on our doors and balcony," she said. Russia attacked Ukraine with 101 drones overnight into Sunday, according to Ukraine's air force, of which 90 were shot down and neutralised. Five drones hit four locations and drone debris fell on five other places, the statement said.

The attack came a day after a Russian missiles and drones killed four people, including two Kyiv, prompting fresh pleas from Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for Western air defense

Firefighters work at a destroyed apartment building after a Russian drone attack, which wounded at least 29 people, in Kyiv, Ukraine | AP

systems. Russia's Defense Ministry claimed on Sunday that over the previous day, its forces struck energy facilities and rail infrastructure serving Ukraine's war effort, as well as other military targets such as troop deployment points and a drone factory.

It did not comment specifically on strikes on Kyiv, nor on the civilian casualties reported by Ukraine. Elsewhere, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the country had tested a new nuclear-capable and powered cruise missile fit to confound existing defenses, according to remarks released on Sunday. *AP*

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

e-TENDER NOTICE NO. DRM-BRC 139 TO 143 OF 2025-26

Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (W A/c.), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works.

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Name of Work	Approximate Cost of the work (in ₹)	Bid Security to be deposited (in ₹)
01	**DRM BRC 139 of 2025-26.** Reconditioning of worn-out CMS crossings by robotic welding under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN North BRC.	1,14,63,849.98	2,07,300.00
02	**DRM BRC 140 of 2025-26.** Vadodara Division :- Elimination of LC No. 7, 8 & 17 of Nadiad-Modasa Section and LC No. 287 and 289 of Vadodara-Geratpur section by merger of LCs by providing diversion road.	6,95,25,246.29	4,97,600.00
03	**DRM BRC 141 of 2025-26.** Vadodara (Yard) :- Raising speed of By pass line from 10 kmph to 50 kmph	2,10,14,467.23	2,55,100.00
04	**DRM BRC 142 of 2025-26.** Outsourcing of track maintenance activities under SSE (P.Way) MYG in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/South/BRC for 02 years.	5,40,40,532.68	4,20,200.00
05	**DRM BRC 143 of 2025-26.** Outsourcing of track maintenance activities under SSE (P.Way) N BH in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/South/BRC for 02 years. (Re-invited) (R-1).	9,55,47,364.35	6,27,700.00

Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: **For Sr. No. 1 to 4 :** Tender is to be submitted on **10-11-2025** before 15:00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15:30 Hrs. **For Sr. No. 5:** Tender is to be submitted on **12-11-2025** before 15:00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15:30 Hrs. **Web site particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased:** Web site @ www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (W A/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-4.

BRC-232

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LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bangalore -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SEC 13 (2) OF "THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

The following persons whose names are mentioned in Col No.2, The details of properties mortgaged are shown in Col No.5. The borrower has defaulted in repaying the amounts due by them as shown in Col. No.4, in spite of repeated remainders, consequently these dues have been classified as NPA's as per RBI's guidelines. Notices were sent by Regd. Post to below mention date and that is returned / undelivered. Therefore, the respective borrowers are hereby called upon to repay the outstanding amounts due mentioned against their names in Col No.2 within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which LIC Housing Finance Ltd., would be constrained to initiate proceedings under sec.13 (4) of SARFAESI Act against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereunder against the respective loan A/cs to realize the amounts due to them.

The borrower attention is also invited as per Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, the right of redemption of the secured assets will be available to them only till date of publication of Sale Notice.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower & Loan No	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount (in Rupees)	Description of the Property
1.	MR. SIVAN J Loan A/c No. 4001180000530	09.10.2025	Rs. 3658320.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Eastern portion of Site No.20, Katha No.25/6/20, formed out of Property No.25/6, BBMP Sl.No.3409, situated at Geddalahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Now comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) limits, Bangalore Measuring East to West: 20 Feet North to south: 36 Feet, in all measuring 720 Sq. Feet and bounded on the: East by: Site No.21, West by: Remaining Western portion of Site No.20 and 19, North by: Property belongs to Narayanappa, South by: 20 Feet Wide Road. The Schedule property consist consists of 600 square Feet of R C C roofed residential building in Ground Floor and 600 Square Feet of R C C roofed residential building n First Floor, constructed with oors and windows are ma hone wood, vitrified flooring, with all types of basic amenities.
2.	MR. VINOD SALIAN Loan A/c No. 410400007485	10.10.2025	Rs. 587476.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Vacant Site No.63 (Sixty Three) having Taralu Grama Panchayathi Katha No.291/63, V.P .Property No. 150200301500320050, formed in the layout known as "WINTER PARK COUNTY" carved out of Residentially converted Land bearing Sy.No.6/2, Sy.No.7/1, Sy.No.8, Sy.No.182/1 and Sy.No.184/3, situated at Tharalu Village, Uttarahalii Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 15.24 Meters and North to South: 9.14 Meters, Total Area being 139.29 Square Meters, together with all rights, appurtenance, easements, whatsoever, whether underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows: East by: Road, West by: Site No.84, North by: Site No.64, South by: Site No.62.
3.	MR. D M AZAD MR. H A SHAHUL HUSSAIN MR. MAQSOOD PASHA (GUARANTOR) Loan A/c No. 411500005756	13.10.2025	Rs. 1891670.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of property bearing BDA Site No.1104, formed by Bangalore Development Authority, in Sir M.Visveshwaraya Layout, 3rd Block, Bangalore and measuring East to West: 9.00 Meters and North to South: 6.00 Meters totally measuring 54.00 Sq. Meters together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on: East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site bearing No.1105 and South by: Site bearing No.1103.
4.	MR. NANDAKUMAR Y K Loan A/c No. 4002210000623	13.10.2025	Rs. 10104639.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Residential Site No.131, House List Khata No.737/698/ 714A/ 131, Kengeri Hobli, Mylasandra Village, Bangalore South Taluk, now within the limits of BBMP, Ward No.198, Khata No.1516/737/698/714/131/14308/1496, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 sq.feet along with together with RCC Roofed 1200 sq.ft., Ground Floor and 1200 sq.ft., First Floor building, constructed using cement and Brick walls, jungle wooden doors & windows, vitrified tiles flooring, with all civic amenities, having boundaries as follows: East by: Site No.120, West by: Road, North by: Site No.130, South by: Site No.132
5.	MR. SUBBA REDDY N VENKATA Loan A/c No. 410100012511	14.10.2025	Rs. 1823228.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the residential Site bearing No.09, measuring East to West: 3.0 feet and North to South: 30 feet in total 900 Sq. Feet, formed in converted Sy.No.163/6 for residential purpose vide Conversion Order No.ALN (EBB) SR.02/2020-21 dated 26-06-2020, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and E.Katha No.150200400500421882 issued by the Village Development and Panchayath Raj Department, situated at Kittagnur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Site No.12, North by: Site No.10 and South by: Site No.08.
6.	MS. LALITHA BAI MR. SHIVAKUMARA SWAMY M S Loan A/c No. 410100012412	14.10.2025	Rs. 3685614.00	SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY " All that piece and parcel of Residentially converted undeveloped land bearing Survey No. 32/1 measuring 3 acres 01guntas, vide Conversion Official Memorandum No. ALN(NAY)SR 80/2013-2014 dated 08/04/2014 comes under Ward No.1, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Yelahanka Zone Situated at Govindapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the: East by : Railway Line in Survey No. 32/2, West by: Survey No. 23 North by : Survey No. 49 & 50 South by : Survey No. 25 and 31 SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential Vacant Site bearing Site No. 21, formed in Sy. No. 32/1, The larger Extent of the land having a BBMP A Katha No. 64/32/1 , Ward No. 01, Land is duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide conversion order No. ALN: (NAY) SR:80/2013-14, dated 08/04/2014 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, in the Layout known as "NANDANA VANA" situated at Govindapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore 560064 ,site Measuring EAST TO WEST (40+43.7)/2 and NORTH TO SOUTH (42.5+59.8)/2 SQFT (East to West towards Northern Side by 40 feet & Southern side by 42.5 Feet & Western side by 59.8 Feet), In all measuring 2000 Sq.feet and bounded on the:- East by: Road, West by: Site No. 43, North by: Site No. 22, South by: Road

Place : Kolar
Date: 27.10.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2025-26/22 Dated 18.10.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
[i] OHE modification required for Construction of Track Machine siding at Chik Banavar, Yediyuru, Shravanabelagola (BAW, YY, SBGA) and Nelamangala (NMGA) station length of 420m [ii] OHE modification in connection with the proposed extension of platform B.G. Nagar (BGNR) PF-1&2 by 16 mtr, Hirisave (HISE) PF-1, 2&3 by 20 mtr, Shravanabelagola (SBGA) PF-1, PF-2&3 by 138m each, Channarayapatna (CNPA) PF-1, 2&3 by 140 mtr and 1 compound wall at Channarayapatna (CNPA) station in Asst. Divisional Engineer/ Kunigal sub division. [iii] Pending works after electrification of Chik Banavar - Hassan (BAW-HAS) (Gr.296) sections of Bengaluru (SBC) Division. [iv] TRD works in connection with Engineering track works in Chik Banavar - Hassan (BAW-HAS) Section. [v] OHE modifications in connection with proposed construction of RUB (RCC Box size-15x4.5m) at km. 14/300-400 at Nelamangala (NMGA) station.	Rs. 1,67,87,839.90

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 10.11.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Bengaluru

PUB/579/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the agricultural land bearing Survey No.123/1, measuring 1.76 acres, situated at Betoli Village, Virajpete Hobli, Virajpet Taluk, belongs to Sri. Chendrimada Mandanna Appaiah, a resident of the said village. The said property has devolved upon him under a Registered Will executed by his late father, Sri. C.G. Mandanna. Said Sri. Chendrimada Mandanna Appaiah has entered into an Agreement of Sale with my client, agreeing to sell the aforesaid property. It is further clarified that the sisters of Sri. Chendrimada Mandanna Appaiah have executed a sworn Affidavit, declaring that they have no objection or claim of any nature whatsoever In respect of the said Registered Will or the property bequeathed thereunder. My client, having verified the title and related records, has now decided to proceed with the registration of the Sale Deed in respect of the said property. Therefore, any person or persons claiming any right, title, interest, lien or encumbrance over the aforesaid property are hereby called upon to submit their objections or claims, if any, to the undersigned within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, along with all supporting documents. If no such claim or objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no one has any manner of right or Interest over the said property, and my client shall proceed to complete the registration of the Sale Deed based on the said Registered Will, and no further claims shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/- A. Derick Anil
Advocate
Flat No.101, 1st Floor, Tulasi Manor,
No.49/50, 80 Feet Road,
RT Nagara, Bengaluru-560032.
Mob: 7406666211/244
advocatedaa@gmail.com

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INDULGE

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SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA

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Overseas Towers, 756-L, Anna Salai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu– 600002

Phone: 044-66636019 /66636055 Website - www.sidbi.in

NOTICE OF SALE

Sale notice for sale of Movable Properties [See proviso to rule 6(2)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable properties charged/ hypothecated to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken on **08/06/2023** by the Authorised Officer of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and " Whatever there is"** on **13/11/2025,** for recovery of Rs.1,02,50,923.54/- (Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Fifty thousand Nine Hundred and twenty Three and Fifty Four paise only) as on 10/10/2025 and further interests w.e.f. 10/10/2025 and other costs and charges due to the Small Industries Development Bank of India, the Secured Creditor from M/s Driti Enterprises (Borrower/Hypothecator), Shri. Muniappa Nagaraju (Proprietor), and Smt. Devika V (Guarantor). **The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are given below:**

Particulars of Assets	Possession Type	Earnest money deposit [EMD] (in Rs.)	Reserve Price (in Rs.)
Xerox Versant 3100 production printer with Dual OHCF & EFI Printer Server & Oct 2400 X 2400 DPI.	**Physical**	**Rs. 71,000/-**	**Rs. 7,10,000/-**

The successful bidder shall also bear the maintenance charges, if any, pending to be paid to the service provider.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Small Industries Development Bank of India, Secured Creditor's website i.e., www.sidbi.in

Date : 27.10.2025 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Chennai **Small Industries Development Bank of India**

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
email : se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com

eProcurement Notice for Road Works under PM-JANMAN Batch-I

Identification No. NCB-24 / RWCKJR / 2025-26
No. 4511 // Date: 23.10.2025 //

0-1180

1. Name of the work :- **Construction of road works under PM-JANMAN Batch-I in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of work :- **03 (Three) Nos.**
3. Estimated Cost :- As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of contractor (Eligible) :- As per Annexure in NIT.
5. Period of completion :- As per Annexure in NIT.
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W. Circle, Keonjhar	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-24/ RWCKJR/ 2025-26	Dt.30.10.25 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.13.11 .25 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt.12.11.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.14.11.25 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

• Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in

OIPR- 25177/11/0101/2526 Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar

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18% year-on-year rise in passenger vehicle exports from India in the April-September period, according to the SIAM data

How share buyback amount is taxed

Payment made by a company to buy back shares is deemed as 'dividend income' in the hands of shareholders

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

WHEN promoters of Infosys Ltd — including NR Narayana Murthy, Sudha Murthy and Nandan Nilekani, among others — decided to opt out of the company's ongoing share buyback programme despite the offer carrying a hefty premium of more than ₹300 per share over the prevailing market price, everyone was curious what the reason could be.

Experts claim the decision was driven by tax consideration as participating in the buyback offer would result in steep tax implications for individual shareholders.

On September 11, 2025, Infosys announced a buyback of equity shares at ₹1,800 per share, compared with the market price of ₹1,510 on that date. The stock currently trades at around ₹1,523 implying a premium of ₹277 per share under the buyback offer.

Now vs then

While the offer looks attractive on paper, an amendment in tax laws pertaining to taxation of gains from buybacks in the Budget 2024 has changed the dynamics. As a result of the amendment in Section 2(22) of the Income Tax Act, any payment made by a company to buy back its own shares is now deemed as 'dividend income' in the hands of shareholders, and is taxed at slab rates.

Earlier, any listed domestic company that buys back its own shares is liable to pay additional income tax on the distributed income at an effective tax rate of 23.296% of distributed income (Rate of tax - 20% (plus surcharge @ 12% plus Health and education cess @ 4%). The tax was applicable on

the difference between the amount paid by the company on account of buyback and the amount received by the company for the issue of such shares. However, an amendment in Budget 2024 changed everything. Now, individual shareholders who opt for the buyback offer have to pay the tax on the entire amount received (and not on the difference between the sale and purchase price.

In case of Infosys buyback offer, a resident individual shareholders will be taxed on entire ₹1,800 received per share as dividend income, without deduction for the purchase cost of shares. For those with annual income exceeding ₹1 crore, effective tax rate is 35.88%, resulting in a tax liability of ₹646 per share. This leaves a net post-tax amount of ₹1,154 per share in the hands of the investor.

By contrast, if a shareholder sells the shares on the open market, gains are taxed as long-term capital gains at an effective rate of 14.95% (including surcharge and cess). Assuming a historical purchase price of ₹100 per share, the tax on a gain of ₹1,423 would be ₹213, leaving a net post-tax amount of ₹1,210 per share. This means even though the buyback offers a ₹277 premium over market price, a resident individual shareholder would end up ₹56 per share worse off post-tax as against selling in the open market. Tax experts say this is the primary reason Infosys promoters have chosen not to participate in the buyback. "The new tax rules neutralise the benefit of the premium being offered," says Ved Jain, a chartered accountant and a senior tax consultant. Non-resident shareholders stand to benefit substantially from the buyback. Under various Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs), dividend income for non-residents is taxed at concessional rates ranging from 5% to 20%.

IN CONVERSATION

R SUBRAMANIAKUMAR
MD and CEO, RBL Bank

'Emirates NBD deal is not a sale, it is infusion of fresh equity capital'

RBL Bank, one of the first Indian banks to operate without a promoter entity, made a history last week by announcing the largest-ever foreign direct investment (FDI) in the domestic banking sector. The bank clinched a ₹26,853 crore deal with Emirates NBD Bank, under which it will issue 960 million preferential shares at ₹280 per share to the acquirer for a 60% equity stake upon conversion, along with a mandatory open offer for an additional 26% later. The bank's MD and CEO **R Subramaniakumar** spoke to **Benn Kochuveedan** about the deal and the bank's performance. Excerpts:

When do you see the transaction being completed, and how confident are you about obtaining RBI approval, especially since it recently rejected Japanese lender SMBC's bid to become a promoter of Yes Bank?
First of all, this is only a proposal. We need to obtain all the necessary approvals, starting with shareholders and then the regulatory authorities—of which the RBI's nod is key. My rough estimate is that the entire process will take six-eight months.

Though I can't and don't want to comment on other deals, it's important not to confuse different situations—they're not comparable. What's happening at RBL Bank is not a sale; it's a fresh capital infusion through issuance of 960 million new shares, without diluting anyone else's shareholding. I want to make it clear: this is fresh capital coming into the bank—it's a big cheque. So, the shareholding base of the bank will expand by 960 million shares, and none of the existing shareholders are selling their stakes.

Do you foresee any regulatory hurdles going forward?
I don't see negativity surrounding the transaction.

The shareholding base of the private sector bank will expand by about 960 million shares, and none of the bank's existing shareholders are selling their stakes in the lender

Will you continue to lead the bank after the deal?
That's not a question for now. The transaction is still underway. I have been appointed by the Reserve Bank to lead the bank for the next three years.

Have you already approached the RBI, or will that happen after shareholders' approval?
Obtaining approvals is a long process, and we will go step by step.

The September quarter wasn't strong, with net income falling 20% and margins under pressure. How do you see the bank performing going ahead as capital is no longer a constraint?
I wouldn't say Q2 was a washout—there were several positives. Corporate advances grew 20%, and advances were up 34%. The retail secured portfolio rose 30%, and the unsecured portfolio surged 78%. Together, corporate and secured retail account for 74% of our assets. Over the past 18 months, we've been scaling up our key businesses, and we're confident of continuing that momentum. Our net profit declined because we had to make about ₹44 crore in mark-to-market provisions, which offset our income. Otherwise, our earning engines are working well.

Another key point is that all our verticals together turned profitable this quarter—well ahead of our target of achieving that by the end of the year. Thanks to the sustained efforts of the team, we reached profitability earlier than expected.

Has the repricing of liabilities been completed? When do you expect margins to stabilise?
Our internal assessment suggests margins will start improving from the next quarter. While repo-linked transmission is complete, repricing of term deposits will be done by Q3. Our microfinance book, which had been declining, has resumed disbursements. From Q3 onwards, you can expect margin growth. In Q2, we printed a flat NIM of 4.51%, but it will improve from here.

How strong is your asset pipeline?
We no longer push personal loans, but we're growing our business loans, working capital loans and other enterprise products.

MONEY-WISE

SHOULD ONE INVEST IN MNC FUNDS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

WHEN I started investing post qualifying as a chartered accountant in the early 1990s, shares of multi-national companies like Pfizer, Glaxo, Hindustan Lever, Colgate and Castrol were glittering stars at the bourses and it is no surprise that they continue to do well in their present avatars even today, three and a half decades down the line.

Today, some mutual fund houses offer investors the option of Multi-National Companies Funds (MNC Funds). They are thematic equity MFs that focus on international companies that are publicly listed and have a significant degree of foreign ownership as well as overseas business activities. Some of the positives that have historically driven investors to MNC stocks and funds are their strong brand equity, capital structure, cash flows and ROE besides low debt. There are inbuilt corporate checks and balances that provide these companies the opportunity to deliver strong performances.

MNC Fund managers practice a bottom up approach to build portfolios, using consistent parameters for selection. While these funds are thematic, they offer investment opportunities across sectors such as FMCG, healthcare, capital goods, autos, and IT. In terms of MNCs, the portfolio mostly has mid and large caps, alongside some quality small caps.

MNC companies have historically enjoyed better revenue streams and provide relatively better insulation against stock price shocks during economic downturns. MNCs are known to have more survivability during market and economic volatility and tend to be among the first to recover during economic downturns. They are reputed to have a high degree of corporate governance compliance and better transparency. This boosts investor trust while simultaneously reducing the chances of governance surprises.

MNCs come with decades worth of research and development, cutting-edge technology, successful business models, and in most cases, international capital and resources, which allows them to scale and maintain long-term competitive advantages. Owing to India's progressive integration into the global economy, MNCs are well poised to capitalise on domestic and international demand and emerging opportunities in the Indian and global markets.

While MNCs may be traded at a premium due to their perceived quality, these valuations are sustained by stable earnings, low leverage, and a clear long-term outlook. Over the long run, compounding impact of all these elements is advantageous to patient investors, especially those with a long-term investment horizon. The emphasis on well-managed companies with strong fundamentals enhances the attractiveness of this fund category for long-term wealth accumulation.

To summarise, MNC Funds combine the advantages of foreign ownership with growth potential of India. Investors with a minimum investment time frame of five-seven years and ability to combine caution and aggression can consider adding MNC funds to their mutual fund portfolios, preferably post vetting by one's investment advisor.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY RETIREMENT CORPUS IDEAS NEED REVIEW

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THIS Diwali, for most people in their 50s, the conversation centred around retirement. The moot point of discussion was 'how much is enough' to retire. It is a topic of discussion among the upper-middle-class and middle-class people. For a long time, Rs 3-4 crore was considered a safe amount. However, many conversations are drifting higher towards the Rs 10 crore mark. These are primarily the upper-middle-income households. There is a significant increase in lifestyle-related expenditures among wealthy households. Many top executives in their 50s want to maintain the 'lifestyle' momentum well into their 60s.

A lot of estimation is based on thumb rules. For example, you can withdraw 4% of your retirement corpus each year without depleting your corpus. The other one concerns the inflation assumption and the compounded annual growth rate of the investment return. The average inflation rate is assumed to be 6% for the foreseeable future, and the average return is set at 10-11% per annum. Most of you want more money in your hands to live the life you wish to live with your hard-earned savings and investments.

There are many assumptions made in such 'guesstimates'. It assumes no significant ailment or sickness. There is an assumption that once you start to dip into the retirement money, there will be no liabilities. Hence, the expenses are only about lifestyle spending. There is no assumption of any investment that could continue post-retirement.

People who are most likely to reach a retirement corpus of Rs 10 crore or more are already there in significant numbers. These are folks who are well-off. We are not talking about the rich or wealthy. We are talking about high-income middle-class households. They have high-paying jobs or own small businesses, no significant responsibilities, and have paid off their home loans or major liabilities, or have none in their 50s. They already have an active and a passive investment portfolio that is generating a steady rate of return. They have more than adequate life and health insurance. Such people are also likely to inherit wealth. These people can multiply their wealth at a faster clip, too. If you are in that category, you must work closely with your financial advisor and make appropriate asset allocation decisions. Get a sense of your risk appetite, your current expenditure, and allocate more money to your investments. You have the ability to aim higher.

The other group belongs to the middle class. These are a dominant category of households: salaried, in government services or the private sector, or with a small business. The Rs 3-4 crore target corpus may or may not be sufficient given the current situation. Home loan liabilities have grown faster than the income of the salaried. There is also an increase in the use of borrowing to fund lifestyle expenditure. A classic indicator is the surge in credit-card outstandings. The RBI data indicate that personal loans for expenditure rose significantly over the past two years. While these are short-term loans, they are in addition to the home loans. Many consumer companies have spoken about the drop in urban consumption. The relief the government has provided through income tax and goods and services tax cuts is due to tight household financial conditions in urban areas.

If you are in your 50s and going through tight money conditions, you are likely to save far less than you aim for your retirement. If you can save more money as a result, the solution is not less investment but more investment for the long term. It is even better to get a sense of your assets and liabilities, and work with a financial advisor to expand the scope of your investments if you wish to maintain your lifestyle after you retire and strike a balance in your finances.

Fed rate, US tariffs to dictate mkt move

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC equities are set to take cues this week from the US Federal Reserve's upcoming interest rate decision and progress on the India-US trade agreement. The market ended the Diwali-shortened week with modest gains, marking its fourth consecutive weekly advance. Meanwhile, gold prices snapped an eight-week rally to record their first weekly decline.

Dalal Street sentiment remained upbeat during the initial sessions of the past week, but profit-booking toward the end trimmed gains. Benchmark NSE Nifty rose 0.33% to settle at 25,795.15, while BSE Sensex advanced 0.31% to close at 84,211.88. "Markets are likely to begin final week of October with a cautiously optimistic tone. Strong corporate earnings, foreign inflows, and improving global sentiment offer a constructive backdrop, though geopolitical uncertainties, scheduled monthly expiry and the upcoming US Fed policy decision could trigger short-term volatility," said Ajit Mishra – SVP, research, Religare Broking.

Mishra added that the focus will shift to the US Federal Reserve's policy decision on October 29, which could influence global liquidity trends and risk sentiment. Additionally, market participants will closely monitor developments surrounding the scheduled US-China presidential meeting, which could further ease trade tensions and impact global markets.

Market analysts expect the Federal Reserve to reduce interest rates for a second time this year. The federal fund rate is expected to come down by a quarter percentage point to a range of 3.75% to 4%.

Vinod Nair, research head, Geojit Investments, said investors remain watchful of developments in the India-US trade negotiations as both sides edge closer to finalising a deal. "Global market sentiment will hinge on key interest rate decisions from the FED & ECB by next week, which are expected to influence market direction in the near term," added Nair. Gold prices came down 3% last week, the precious metal's steepest fall since mid-May as traders booked profits after a prolonged rally that drove prices to record highs earlier this month. Dollar index gained for a third consecutive session, making gold more expensive for non-US buyers and dampening sentiment.

Analysts expect Fed rate cut for second time this year

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Ola Electric board approves ₹1,500 cr fundraising as co scales EV, battery mfg

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

OLA Electric Mobility Limited has announced a major fundraising plan, with its Board of Directors approving a proposal to raise up to ₹1,500 crore. The decision was taken during a board meeting held on Saturday.

In a regulatory filing on Saturday, the electric vehicle maker stated that the funds may be raised through the issuance of equity shares, convertible securities, warrants, American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs), or other permissible instruments.

The company plans to explore multiple routes for the fundraising, including a further public offer, rights issue, qualified institutional placement (QIP), private placement, or any other mode permitted under applicable law.

So FCF (free cash flow) required for the auto business should be ₹400 - ₹500 crore for the remaining 3 quarters and the auto business should generate FCF by exit FY26

Ola Electric Mobility

The board's approval is, however, subject to the consent of shareholders, which will be sought through a postal ballot. Necessary regulatory and statutory approvals will also be required before the fund-raising exercise can proceed.

As part of the disclosure under SEBI regulations, Ola Electric confirmed that the specific details regarding the type of securities, pricing, and structure of the issuance will be determined by the board in accordance with applicable laws.

Though the company has not mentioned the exact purpose for the fund raise, this round of fundraising is seen as a significant step for Ola Electric as it continues to scale its electric vehicle and battery manufacturing operations, amid growing competition in India's EV sector.

Badminton Asia C'ships: Shaina, Diksha win gold

India recorded its best-ever showing at the Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Championships as Shaina Manimuthu and Diksha Sudhakar clinched gold medals in Chengdu (China). In the U15 girls' singles, Shaina overcame Japan's Chiharu Tomita 21-14, 22-20. Diksha beat compatriot Lakshya Rajesh 21-16, 21-9 to take the U17 girls' singles crown.

Focus on system and youth: BAI's way forward

During the recent World Jr C'ships, BAI general secretary Sanjay Mishra discussed about the significance of having a system in place & their goals of pushing junior shuttlers to prominence

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

No phones after 9:30 pm, mandatory rule to reside at the hostel even for locals, no ordering from apps like Zomato and Swiggy. No unnecessary contacts with parents (emergencies are exceptions). Those are some of the diktats trainees at the National Centre of Excellence (NCE) at Guwahati have to strictly abide by if they want to pursue their dreams. While it's still early days and the budding talents, regarded as the best at their ages, are still getting accustomed to their routines, Badminton Association of India's (BAI) plan is crystal clear — try and inculcate discipline across the board in a gradual manner and build a system that will help the country produce champion shuttlers in the near future.

Given the culture, it's an ambitious project. BAI are well-aware of the size of the tasks at their hands. They are even expecting plenty of pushbacks from players, parents etc. They are looking to take a leaf out of renowned football manager Jurgen Klopp's book, which he practised during his Liverpool years. Turn potential doubters into believers through results on the court.

BAI could not have hoped for better start during the BWF World Junior Championships at the same venue as the country's top talents, including a bunch of trainees from NCE, produced the country's best-ever show during the mixed team event while Tanvi Sharma showed her aptitude to become a top-level player by helping the country fetch a silver medal in the individual competition.

The idea of putting strict rules might sound a bit overwhelming at first but BAI has a solid premise to enforce such rules. For instance, the idea of residing at the hostel is to ensure that the trainees maintain a healthy diet and rest. BAI general secretary Sanjay Mishra explained the thought-process. "If you have a morning training session and you go home and do something, we won't know. For the second session, you need rest and your body should be ready for that. Proper diet, proper rest and next session. Once you go home, whether you attend a wedding or visit a mall, we won't know. After one week, a player might suffer an injury since he/she didn't take proper rest. So, it's mandatory for the players."

BAI general secretary Sanjay Mishra

Express Special

At present, the national centre at North Guwahati can house 48 students. The BAI is looking to increase that number to 100 within the next three, four months. In the near future, the national body is hopeful of NCE-like centres in more states. A streamlined centralised system where BAI has total authority over the centres for smooth outcome. In fact, Mishra revealed that a few states have already shown interests to that idea.

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India have been overly reliant on a few big names over the years. It was sort of a golden generation with Saina Newhal, PV Sindhu and men shuttlers like Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy breaking numerous barriers, leaving a benchmark for those to follow. With the ageing stars' diminishing returns, the federation, acknowledging their immense contribution, seems to have accepted the hard reality and are gradually shifting their attention on young talents to take up the mantle in the coming years. "Our main focus is juniors. Already, Sindhu has contributed a lot, Prannoy also did a lot. Lakshya, I think, we'll probably get more results from him for the next four/five years. Srikanth also did a lot, becoming the World No 1. At the moment, we want the current junior batch to rise to that level in the next two-three years. Our bench strength should be good."

With the established names still pushing hard, BAI has to tread carefully before they call for wholesale changes. One thing that BAI is clear about is not putting undue pressure on anyone. "You can't change a system, be it any system, overnight. Sindhu, Srikanth, Prannoy, who have been playing for so long, we suddenly can't ask them to stop. Whatever we're getting from them, we might not get that as well."

Citing China — the gold standard of the sport — as example, BAI wants to build a strong pool of young talents.

"China hosted the World Junior Championships last year, the system they have is such that we can beat their player but we can't beat their system. They are so far ahead. In their system, one player might lose, but you'll get 100s of players who'll be ready within one year. Last year, the team they had prepared for world junior, they were playing at the European circuit, tournaments in India within one year. Their 50 players, the group they have, is already preparing for the LA Olympics. It's because they have a system in place.

"Here (in India), it's impossible. Either one player will say they can't come here or go there. If we try to be strict, we get some form of pressure. So slowly, slowly we are trying to get there. The NCE system we have, if we get the results then maybe people will start being on the same page. We can't pressure people. But if we get the results, maybe people will start being more accepting and be more supportive."

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Having gotten positive feedback from the world body (BWF), the BAI's next big project, in terms of hosting events, is the senior World Championships which is set to be held at the IG Stadium in New Delhi next year.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

SOPHIE DEVINE— TRAILBLAZER, CAPTAIN & HUMAN

GOMESH S @ Navi Mumbai

FEBRUARY 13, 2023. New Zealand captain Sophie Devine walked into the press conference room at the Boland Park in Paarl after the hammering they received at the hands of South Africa in the T20 World Cup. Chasing 133, New Zealand were bundled out for 67, and with that, all but getting knocked out of the tournament in their very second game.

A visibly fuming Devine reflected on the performance without any inhibitions. She called it an "embarrassment" and " not good enough for an international cricket side" before eventually breaking down when asked if she was feeling angry. "It's probably going to come out in tears if I'm honest, now you've set me off," she said before taking the responsibility as the senior batter while throwing her weight behind the younger players. Devine, who was signed by Royal Challengers Bangalore for approximately 1 million NZD in the first Women's Premier League earlier in the day, went on to add how the timing of the auction was not ideal for every team in the World Cup.

Two years on, Devine once again walked into another press conference in a similar situation. This time, after losing to India and getting knocked out of the 2025 ODI World Cup in Navi Mumbai. The loss meant Devine would finish her much-revered 19-year-long ODI career against England in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. Asked how she continues take ownership time and again for White Ferns and the country, the first words out of Devine were: "I don't know." She said, "I think the really important thing for me is to be authentic, and not just for me or my group, but for you guys as well," before adding how athletes at the end of the day are also human beings. "This right now is a bloody tough thing for me to have to do. But I also want to front up and still be really proud of what this group's been able to achieve. I'm not going to sugarcoat it; it sucks. Losing press conferences are probably the hardest ones to do, especially when you've been knocked out of a tournament. At the end of the day, there aren't too many positive words I could probably say about it, unfortunately."

New Zealand captain Sophie Devine bids farewell to ODIs after the match on Sunday | EXPRESS

The 36-year-old has been a generational leader for Aotearoa, playing five ODI WCs, including a final in 2009, and nine T20 World Cups, leading the country to its first global title since 2000. She has 4279 runs (third-highest for NZ behind Suzie Bates and Amy Satterthwaite) and 111 wickets (second behind Lea Tahuhu) in the 50-over format. Devine, in her early years, had also represented Black Sticks Women in the 2009 Junior Hockey World Cup and the 2012 Champions Trophy. A torchbearer and legend in her own right, Devine was awarded Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for her services to cricket earlier this year. She will go down as one of the all-time greats of cricket and the New Zealand sporting fraternity for the sheer weight of her on-field achievements.

However, the two aforementioned press conferences — and countless others — reiterate what makes Devine special. That there is more to her than her sporting accolades. One of the most competitive athletes in the world, Devine is fierce on the field, constantly striving to lead from the front and be an example for not just her teammates and New Zealanders but all over the world. In her own words, she's "authentic" and one of the few cricketers whose press conferences are ones to look forward to. With Devine, when asked a question, no matter what the subject, one could always get a direct answer that is not just nuanced but also looks at the big picture.

As she grew as a cricketer and leader, Devine became much more open about her emotions and did not shy away from being vulnerable in public. She has consistently reminded the world that "behind the keyboard, behind the helmet and the bat and the pads, there's a person there, too," while being at the front and centre of prioritising mental health. In April 2021, Devine missed out on the second T20I against Australia, and it went on to become an extended mental health sabbatical. Having been in multiple COVID-19 bubbles since September 2020, it all caught up to her. She felt she could not do the job and live up to the role in terms of what she expects of herself. When she came back in June, Devine reiterated the significance of conversing about mental health in public. "I can share my stories with others to know it's okay to be able to step away. It's not just athletes, it's everyone. We need to create that space for people to be able to talk about mental health," she had said at the time. Devine paved the way for someone like Melie Kerr to take a mental health break later that same year before coming back for the 2022 home World Cup.

Having been the reason behind why some of her teammates took up the sport, Devine set the standards for being goofy off the field, too. She would tear off the leather with her powerful hits when in the middle and imitate a Star Wars Jedi with a mosquito bat in the dressing room off it. Along with the best mates of her generation — Suzie Bates, Lea Tahuhu, Katey Martin, Amy Satterthwaite and Frances Mackay — she created a team environment and culture that made the younger players feel safe in the dressing room. "She wears her heart on her sleeve. She cares so much and she competes as well, which is all you can really ask for as a captain," Jess Kerr said. "I think she's really strived for all of us to work really hard, both with our cricket and our fitness as well. And then off the field, she's also extremely funny. She always has us laughing and brings that fun side to cricket, which is really cool. It doesn't have to be serious all the time. And then, that culture she brings too," the pacer added.

The same care was evident on Sunday as well, even though New Zealand lost to England by eight wickets. **Brief scores:** NZ 168 in 38.2 ovs (Georgia Plimmer 43; Linsey Smith 3/30) **lost to** England 172/2 in 29.2 ovs (Amy Jones 86 n.o).

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Canadian Open: Anahat overcomes Cindy to book Round of 16 berth

TORONTO: Reigning national champion Anahat Singh entered the Round of 16 at the Canadian Women's Open squash, a $96,250 PSA Silver event here. The Delhi teenager, ranked 43 in the world, got the better of Swiss Cindy Merlo 11-3, 11-3, 11-4 in 17 minutes in the opening round on Saturday, and will next meet World No 20 and sixth seed Melissa Alves.

Gukesh headlines Chess Champions showdown, Carlsen favourite

ST LOUIS: World champion D Gukesh will have his task cut out against the strongest ever field in the $412000 Clutch Chess Champions showdown that gets underway here. Gukesh will face the top three-ranked players in the world over 18 games to be played under rapid chess format at the newly designed facility here. World No 1 Magnus Carlsen will yet again start as the favourite.

Youngsters seek productive service

CHANDRA PRABHU @Chennai

THE wait is finally over. After three years, the Chennai Open is returning to the SDAT Stadium in Nungambakkam. As the preparations for Monday's main draw reached its final stages, the excitement for this tournament was palpable.

The WTA 250 tour will feature young talents who have broken barriers recently. Interestingly, some arrive as the trailblazers of the sport in their respective countries. Take Turkish Zeynep Sonmez for example. She became the first Turkish tennis player to reach the third round of Wimbledon in the Open era this year. Her WTA rankings stand at 69 (As of 20th October 2025), her career-best so far. She will be facing Tatiana Prozorova of Russia.

She is the top seed in the women's singles. "Yea (on being top seed for the first time) it feels good of course. It comes with pressure but I'm fine with it," Somnez told reporters.

Japan's Mei Yamaguchi in action during the qualifiers on Sunday | PTI

Sunday's results (Qualifiers): A Lew Yan Foon bt V Adkar 6-2, 6-3; C Werner 6-3, 7-6 (4); M Yamaguchi **bt** A Rodionova 2-6, 4-6, 6-2; A Hartano bt P Nugruho 6-2, 6-1.

Since July last year, Somnez has not had a coach. She only has a fitness and mental coach in Mehmed Bayraktar. In November 2024, she won the Merida Open in Akron.

Another such player is fourth-seeded Janice Tjen of Indonesia. From the outside, it looks like she is reviving the hopes of tennis in the country. Tjen became the first Indonesian to qualify for the US Open since 2004, as well as crack into the top-100 in the WTA rankings. She will be facing Italy's Lucrezia Stefanini. For both Sonmez and Tjen, this WTA 250 tour provides another chance to improve their points and evolve as players.

For India, an enticing tie between 16-year-old Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi and India's second-best woman player Shrivalli Bhamidipaty could attract more crowds. Two of the country's best women players are expected to put in their best performances. Training at the prestigious Rafael Nadal Academy with seasoned professionals, Maaya is hoping for a memorable campaign. Sahaja Yamalapalli, the country's best player, is set to start her campaign against a qualifier.

Linda Fruhvirtova of the Czech Republic will be returning to defend her title.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Radha Yadav was the highest wicket-taker for India on Sunday | AFP

THREE CHEERS

Radha leaves a mark in rain-hit match

GOMESH S @ Navi Mumbai

WHEN Radha Yadav took the field for India in the last league of the World Cup against Bangladesh at the DY Patil Stadium on Sunday, she was nervous. And understandably so. After all, it was her first match of the tournament.

The rain interruptions did not help either. However, the left-arm spinner from Baroda rose above all that to take three wickets (3/30), helping India restrict Bangladesh to 119/9 in 27 overs. The only worry for India from the day was the injury scare of Pratika Rawal, who twisted her ankle while trying to stop a boundary.

Much to the disappointment of the fans, the contest started as a 43-over per side after rain delay. By the time Radha was introduced in the 13th over, the match had been reduced to 23 overs per side. It meant the left-arm spinner was meant to do what she does best — bowl tight lines and attack the stumps.

Two boundary-less overs later, Sobhana Mostary managed to get a shorter delivery from Radha out of the way to the ropes. Radha, however, did not get perturbed. She stuck to her plans and she was duly rewarded later. But rain intervened yet again during India's chase and the tie was was deemed as no result. **Brief scores:** Bangladesh 119/9 in 27 ovs (Sharmin 36, Sobhana 26; Radha 3/30) **vs** India 57/0 in 8.4 ovs. (No result)

Full story: newindianexpress.com

RANJI ROUND-UP

Nair slams century to help Karnataka reach 371

ENS/AGENCIES @ Shivamogga

KARUN Nair scored his 25th first-class hundred to take Karnataka to a strong position against Goa on the rain-hit Day 2 of their Ranji Trophy match on Sunday. Karun made an unbeaten 174 off 267 balls. It helped Karnataka make 371 in their first innings. Goa were 28 for one when the rain ended the day's proceedings.

UP secure lead vs Odisha

KANPUR: Captain Karan Sharma (83 not out) and Aaradhya Yadav (80 not out) stitched together an unbeaten 146 runs for the third wicket as Uttar Pradesh took a 19-run first innings lead against Odisha.

Andhra 43/2 at stumps

VIZIANAGARAM: Vishnu Solanki slammed a century with captain Atit Seth also scoring a fifty as Baroda made 363 runs in their first innings against Andhra. Bhargav Bhatt then claimed two quick wickets to reduce Andhra to 43/2.

Delhi's pacer Navdeep Saini celebrates a wicket on Sunday | SAYANTAN GHOSH

TN in command

BENGALURU: Left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh grabbed a hat-trick for Tamil Nadu as they reduced Nagaland to 150/4 with the 26-year-old accounting for all the rival wickets. Earlier, Pradosh Ranjan Paul completed his maiden double-century as Tamil Nadu declared their innings at 512/3.

Punjab in strong position

NEW CHANDIGARH: Harnoor Singh's 170 and vital contributions from lower order - Perit Dutta (72) and Mayank Markande (48 not out) - took Punjab to 436 runs against Kerala. Ankit Sharma claimed four wickets for Kerala, who were 15/1 when the bails were drawn.

Hyderabad post 435

PUDUCHERRY: Captain Rahul Singh made 114 while Tanmay Agarwal (50), K Himateja (66) and Rahul Radesh (81) scored a half-century each as Hyderabad made 435 against Pondicherry. The hosts were 25/1 at the end of the day.

Six fifties take Delhi to 430

NEW DELHI: Six half-centuries from their batters propelled Delhi to 430 against Himachal Pradesh in their match. The hosts then reduced Himachal to 165/3 when the bails were drawn with Navdeep Saini taking two wickets.

Brief scores **Group A:** At Vizianagaram: Baroda 363 in 109 ovs (Vishnu Solanki 131, Atit Seth 86, Mahesh Pithiya 54; Kavuri Saiteja 4/71, Tripurana Vijay 3/63) vs Andhra 43/2 in 16 ovs (Bhargav Bhatt 2/9); At Kanpur: Odisha 243 vs Uttar Pradesh 262/3 in 86 ovs (Madhav Kaushik 67, Karan Sharma 83 batting, Aaradhya Yadav 80 batting; Sambit Baral 3/35); At Bengaluru: Tamil Nadu 512/3 decl in 115 ovs (Pradosh Ranjan Paul 201 n.o, Vimal Khumar 189, C Andre Siddarth 65) vs Nagaland 150/4 in 58 ovs (Dega Niscal 80 batting, Yugandhar Singh 58 batting; Gurjapneet Singh 4/34). **Group B:** At Shivamogga: Karnataka 371 in 110.1 ovs (Karun Nair 174 n.o, Shreyas Gopal 57; Arjun Tendulkar 3/100, Vasuki Koushik 3/35) vs Goa 28/1 in 13 ovs; At New Chandigarh: Punjab 436 in 163.4 ovs (Harnoor Singh 170, Perit Dutta 72; Ankit Sharma 4/103, N Basil 2/69, Baba Aparajith 2/88) vs Kerala 15/1 in 7 ovs. **Group D:** At Puducherry: Hyderabad 435 in 134.5 ovs (Rahul Singh 114, Rahul Radesh 81; Sagar Udeshi 4/110, Jayant Yadav 2/114, Karan Kannan 2/66) vs Pondicherry 25/1 in 9 ovs; At New Delhi: Delhi 430 in 116 ovs (Ayush Doseja 75, Sumit Mathur 51, Anuj Rawat 57; Vaibhav Arora 4/78, Arpit Guleria 4/106) vs Himachal Pradesh 165/3 in 55 ovs (Sidhant Purohit 70; Navdeep Saini 2/20).

Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham (2L) celebrates after scoring on Sunday | AP

Madrid edge Barcelona in Clasico to extend Liga lead

AGENCIES @ Madrid

JUDE Bellingham's goal proved to be pivotal as Real Madrid won the Clasico against Catalan rivals Barcelona in the La Liga on Sunday.

Kylian Mbappe had handed Real the lead before Fermin Lopez equalised for the Barca. But Bellingham restored the hosts' lead at the stroke of half-time. The scoreline remained the same in the second half and Barca eventually finished with 10 men after a red card for Pedri in injury time. The victory helped the Los Blancos extend their lead at the top.

Arsenal win, City lose

LONDON: Arsenal stretched their Premier League lead to four points as Eberechi Eze's goal helped beat his former club Crystal Palace 1-0, while Manchester City lost 0-1 at Aston Villa on Sunday. Liverpool had suffered yet another defeat to Brentford on Saturday.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

UP POLICE COMPUTER OPERATOR (GRADE-A)	SSC CHSL (TIER 1)	RRB RPF CONSTABLE (PET/PMT)
Date: Nov 1	Date: Nov 12	Date: Nov13–Dec 6

newindianexpress.com
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IIM INDORE'S BLUEPRINT FOR TOMORROW

From 100% placements to nation-building initiatives, explore how this pioneering institution is preparing students to lead in an interconnected, AI-driven world

Alumni Spotlight

Vivek Bajaj
PGP Batch of 2005
Co-Founder of StockEdge and ElearnMarkets, Finance Content Creator

Arindam Paul
PGP Batch of 2014
Chief Business Officer at Atomberg Technologies

Siddharth Kaushal
PGP Batch of 2009
Former IPS Officer (2012 Batch, Andhra Pradesh Cadre)

Neha Rastogi
MBA Batch of 2003
Global Chief Credit Officer for Specialised Finance Risk at Standard Chartered, Hong Kong

Anita Sharma
FPM Batch of 2015
Founder of Drive On My Own and DEI Consultant

PLACEMENT TRENDS & CHALLENGES

100% placement record for the 2023–2025 batch

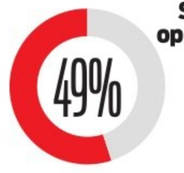
OVER 225 recruiters participated, including 50 new recruiting partners

COMPENSATION HIGHLIGHTS

Average Package ₹29.57 LPA

Median Package ₹27 LPA

Highest domestic offer ₹70 LPA



Sector-wise opportunities
Consulting and Finance: 49% of the batch

OTHER SECTORS

- General Management, IT/Analytics, Sales & Marketing, Sustainability, Product Management
- Despite global economic challenges, recruiters demonstrated strong confidence in IIM Indore's talent pool

STUDENT VOICES

Students share what they love most about studying at IIM Indore

YASHVI RANKA *(PGP 2025-27 Batch)*

The most enriching aspect of IIM Indore is its encouraging and inclusive environment. The spirit of mutual support and collaboration keeps us motivated and makes the academic journey both engaging and inspiring.

ANSH AGARWAL *(PGP 2025-27 Batch)*

The most distinctive feature of studying at IIM Indore is the emphasis on comprehensive development. The seamless integration of curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular opportunities ensures a truly holistic learning experience that is both rigorous and enjoyable.

MARIYA ALI *(PGP 2025-27 Batch)*

One of the most remarkable aspects of being part of IIM Indore is the vibrant campus culture. The blend of natural beauty with the dynamic energy of students creates an inspiring atmosphere that is both unique and uplifting.

Director Prof Himanshu Rai reflects on IIM Indore's journey of pioneering academics, immersive learning, and strategic industry and social partnerships that prepare students for leadership in a complex, AI-driven world

'IIM Indore aspires to be a key architect of Vision 2050'

What are the unique strengths or focus areas that set IIM Indore apart from other IIMs?
It is one of the very few IIMs to hold the 'Triple Crown' accreditation (EQUIS, AACSB, and AMBA). The institute has been a pioneer in programme innovation, being the first IIM to launch the Five-Year Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) in 2011. It offers executive education programmes in the GCC and Middle East. Flagship initiatives such as the Himalayan Outbound Programme and the Rural Engagement Programme push students to build resilience and leadership. Complementing this is one of the largest international exchange networks among Indian B-schools. This unique combination of global recognition and immersive learning experiences sets IIM Indore apart from its peers.

What is the institute doing to strengthen industry partnerships and improve student employability?
IIM Indore has been steadily strengthening its industry linkages to ensure students are prepared for sustainable, long-term careers. Through its Industry Interface Office, students gain hands-on exposure via consulting assignments, live projects, corporate internships and regular interactions with industry leaders. Beyond placements, the institute promotes entrepreneurship, offering structured mentoring, incubation support and seed funding for student-led ventures. What sets its approach apart is a commitment to employability over mere employment. By prioritising skill-building, adaptability and industry immersion, the institute prepares students to navigate an evolving job market, strengthens recruiter confidence and empowers graduates to pursue impactful, future-ready careers.

How is IIM Indore adapting its MBA to tackle AI disruptions and seize new management opportunities?
IIM Indore has been proactive in adapting its MBA programmes to the twin realities of AI-driven job disruptions and new global opportunities. The institute recognises that success will increasingly depend on combining technical fluency with human-centric leadership skills. It has introduced a joint programme with IIT Indore, the Master of Science in Data Science and Management, embedding advanced analytics, machine learning, and data-driven decision-making into business education. Regular industry conclaves, expert-led workshops, and live projects, including those focused on generative AI, keep students aligned with technological trends. The flagship curriculum emphasises creativity, design thinking, critical reasoning, and ethical judgement.

The 2022–24 batch saw 100% placements as well; what drove this success, and how will the institute sustain momentum going forward?
A strong industry-oriented approach, ongoing academic-industry integration, and innovative skilling initiatives. Over 150 recruiters participated for over 550 students in 2024, reflecting high confidence in the talent pool. Major sectors included consulting (25%), finance (19%), sales and marketing (19%), IT and analytics (12%), and general management, HR, and operations (25% combined). The institute regularly updates course content, with design thinking, critical thinking, and emphasis on humanities, social science, and philosophical perspectives, alongside practical learning, research, and cross-disciplinary education. High QS and FT rankings underscore its stature.

In terms of academics and otherwise, what new developments can we look forward to from IIM Indore?
IIM Indore is expanding cutting-edge courses in generative AI, sustainability and digital transformation, while strengthening research-driven pathways like the MBA Thesis Track. Beyond academics, it emphasises holistic development through industry collaborations and interdisciplinary projects across business, policy and society. The institute is deepening social impact by working with government bodies and administrations, enabling students to contribute to community development while honing leadership skills. With state-of-the-art infrastructure and global research collaborations, IIM Indore is positioning itself as a hub of thought leadership and social responsibility, creating future-ready leaders who can drive sustainable growth.

Where do you see India in 2050, and what role do you see IIM Indore playing towards the same vision?
By then, India is poised to emerge as one of the world's leading economic powerhouses, fuelled by its demographic dividend, technological leapfrogging and entrepreneurial energy. With its evolving role in shaping global policy and innovation, India is charting growth that balances scale with social equity. To truly realise this vision, the country needs leaders who are innovative, adaptive and ethically grounded. IIM Indore aspires to be a key architect of this future. Its mission of being a contextually relevant business school aligns with India's aspirations. By 2050, the institute envisions itself as a global benchmark in management education, playing a sustained role in shaping leaders committed to both economic advancement and nation-building.

Rural Engagement Programme

Initiatives, ventures, & collaboration

From students to startups, IIM Indore is shaping a culture of creation and connection that reaches far beyond its campus

Student Ecosystem

IIM Indore has built a dynamic campus where students engage through the Student Activity Council, clubs and interest groups. They take part in case competitions, live projects, certification courses and workshops. Social initiatives — Pragat-I (School Adoption Programme), Jagriti, and health and outreach camps — underline the institute's commitment to community engagement.

prep time

Fostering entrepreneurship

The institute nurtures entrepreneurial talent via the E-Cell, which supports start-ups with mentorship, seed funding and events like Escalon. Student ventures such as JAM and Xpress-o-mat provide hands-on experience. Special Interest Groups explore MSMEs, aviation and frugal innovation. The IIM Indore Incubation Foundation offers mentoring, infrastructure, investor-readiness training and funding, while the Industry Interface Office connects founders with faculty and industry experts.

Global collaborations

IIM Indore has partnerships across 27 countries, enabling student and faculty exchanges and research in management and policy areas. Consistent placement among the Financial Times top-100 business schools reflects its commitment to academic excellence and international standards.

Executive education and international reach

Each year, the institute delivers 200+ executive education programmes for professional needs, and extends its footprint through specialised courses in the UAE, GCC and the Middle East.

What's fun on campus

A blend of intensity and enjoyment, IIM Indore is where academic rigour meets the vibrant traditions that define student culture

Best dish in the canteen: Butter chicken at night mess

Most awesome informal tradition: Section wars, spirited section parties

Campus lingo: From "BTS" (Between the Student Residences) to terms like "globe," "Desperate Class Participation (DCP)," and the infamous "PPRA," the dialect reflects the humor and spirit of campus life. A simple rule applies: add an "i" at the end of almost anything to sound like a local!

Best time to be on campus: Between September and October, when the monsoon fades

Best spot to hang out for students on campus: SR10, Mess 2, and Cups Café

Most Instagram-worthy spot on campus: The BTS graffiti wall

ICONIC EVENTS & TRADITIONS

IIM Indore, renowned for its vibrant campus life, is defined by a wide array of student-led events that foster learning, creativity, and camaraderie

Atharv

Sports

THROUGHOUT the year, the institute hosts major fests such as Atharv Ranbhoomi, the largest B-school festival in Central India; IRIS, the annual management and cultural extravaganza; i5 Summit, which celebrates innovation and entrepreneurship; and Utsaha, India's largest rural marketing festival. These events bring together competitions, performances, and cultural showcases, attracting participation from institutions across the country. The campus has also hosted TEDxIIMIndore, where eminent speakers share transformative ideas and experiences with the student community.

Sports remain an integral part of campus life, with Section Wars, Batch Wars, the Director's Cup, and seasonal leagues making use of IIM Indore's world-class sports facilities. These events cultivate team spirit and physical well-being while ensuring that academics are complemented by active lifestyles. The institute's cultural fabric is equally rich, and various festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm, while landmark traditions such as the Fresher's Party and Farewell mark the beginning and culmination of students' journeys at IIM Indore.

The academic calendar is further enriched by seminars and workshops featuring distinguished speakers and industry leaders, offering perspectives on emerging global and national issues. Quizzes, panel discussions, and simulation-based management games, often designed by students themselves, add to the culture of intellectual engagement.

The Rural Engagement Programme for first-year students provides grassroots exposure, while the Himalayan Outbound Programme, Extreme Outdoors, and Student Exchange opportunities enable personal growth and global learning for senior batches.

In addition, IIM Indore organises specialised conclaves and flagship forums, including Prabodhan, the HR and Leadership dialogue led by the one-year MBA students, and Mimamsa, the institute's annual HR conclave that brings together industry experts and thought leaders.

Campus Life

Cultural Fest

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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27.10.2025
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Williams caps titles

American tennis player Serena Williams, on this day, in 2013 ended a career year in style by earning her 11th title

HALL OF FAME

Serena won 78 of 82 matches in 2013 and finished the year as the top-ranked player for the third time in her career. She also became the 8th woman to win 11 or more titles a year

A LEGACY

Serena's career Grand Slam tally was at 17, and in February 2013, she became the oldest woman to ever be ranked No 1 in the world

RETIREMENT

She retired from professional tennis in 2022 after playing her final tournament at the US Open, wanting to focus on her family and other business

What's happening in ooru?

PG 2

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

Ahead of her show on finding humour in sarees, Kannada standup comedian **Sonu Venugopal** reveals how her talent for storytelling was honed by radio

SERVING LOOKS & LAUGHS

WITH her charming North Karnataka accent and frank demeanour on stage, bringing her millions of views, Bengaluru comedian Sonu Venugopal is one of the hottest voices in Kannada comedy space today. With her show 'The Sentimental Saree', in collaboration with Maitri Saree Library, happening this Friday, Venugopal is set to find humour within the treasured garments found in all our homes – sarees. "Wearing sarees is like wearing a piece of art. That's what makes them special and that's why there are a lot of sentiments attached to them. I'm just tapping into those emotions," she says.

This set is different from her others, moving away from her own experiences to make room for others. "I have stories to share, like the first time I wore a saree to school, but I'm not digging deep into just my life. I've spoken to a lot of saree connoisseurs who have interesting stories to share. I also talked to my grandmother about her wedding saree. It's going to be interesting to see how the show comes together because there's no dearth of content."

Seven years into her career as a comic, when Venugopal looks back now, she traces her instinct for comedy to childhood – as a little girl who loved to tell stories. "I was a great storyteller. I enjoyed telling stories that were cooked in my own head," she says, adding with a laugh, "It's weird because my daughter is also doing that now – she recently told me about a lion who loves eating idli-sambar. I think I was as absurd as her. The stories weren't always about humour. I wanted something funny because that's the toughest emotion to tap."

New fans who discover her through her standup comedy may not know that she was an RJ and a radio producer for years, which helped her sharpen her funny bone. "Radio gave me solid training in terms of how to say things in the most concise way. It's a thin line between speaking about your life and being self indulgent. You have to cut through the crap and know when to stop. With about a minute-and-a-half on air, you have to make it count."

Despite being a fluent English speaker, and the English standup comedy scene being much more established compared to the Kannada scene when she started in 2018, Kannada was a natural choice for Venugopal. She says, "It wasn't like I sat down and decided, 'Oh, I'm going to do Kannada comedy'. I just felt that there is a reason it's called mother tongue. There are so many things that you can convey that are impossible in English or Hindi. I didn't think about the larger picture, I just wanted to try it and to be honest, I didn't think I would sustain this for so many years."

The stark change in the Kannada scene, once limited to TV shows but now thriving online and in Kannada comedy nights all over the city, is especially apparent to Venugopal, who has witnessed it up close. "We used to struggle to sell 20-30 tickets and now we're selling thousands. We've come a long way not just in terms of audience size but with the fact that people are willing to spend ₹1,000 to watch you," says Venugopal, who recently performed in cities across the world with her 'High Risk Low Return' tour.

With her international tour (in Kannada) tickets selling like hot cakes and a solid fanbase behind her, Venugopal is now trying English comedy too. "I think when you leave the country, you become majorly homesick and want to hear things in your language. Luckily, we were able to sell all the tickets and that gave me a lot of confidence. I wanted to see whether it's possible for a regional comic to do." She adds, reassuring fans, "I'm not going to stop Kannada comedy but I want to dabble a bit in English – there's nothing wrong with diversifying."

(The Sentimental Saree will take place at Shankaraa Foundation, Kanakpura Road, on October 31 at 6.30pm. Tickets are available from ₹890 onwards on bookmyshow.com)

Roya Sadat directing her actors

'WE CAN'T ALL LEAVE'

Roya Sadat spoke to an audience just as her film, *Sima's Song*, won a major Canadian award. The film spotlights the human drama of friendship between two women of opposing ideologies in war-torn Afghanistan

NUPUR BASU

THE October chill was setting in and as the evening turned to night, the audience eagerly waited to view celebrated award-winning Afghan director Roya Sadat's latest film, *Sima's Song*, in Delhi's Max Mueller Bhavan. Sadat, like many women filmmakers, journalists and activists in Afghanistan now lives in exile in the West and made this film in 2024 while in exile. *Sima's Song* begins after the Taliban takes control of Kabul city. It zeroes in on a protest demonstration on the streets by Afghan women and the Taliban forces using coercion and trying to disperse them.

Cut to the interior of a home in Kabul. An elderly Suraya tells her granddaughter about her friend, Sima, a singer. The grandmother recalls the Cold War which was about to break out in Afghanistan in the late '70s, and how she and her friend Sima got caught in the opposing ends of the conflict.

Suraya is played by award-winning actor Mozhdah Jamalzadah, an Afghan-Canadian singer, actor, model and activist known for championing women's rights in Afghanistan. Raised in Vancouver after fleeing Kabul during the Afghan civil war, she gained fame with her song *Sher Bacha e Afghani*. Niloufar Koukhani who plays Sima in the film is a renowned Iranian actor, best known for her roles in popular TV serials such as *Viper of Tehran* (2024).

Flash back to '79, Kabul. Suraya and Sima are in the prime of their youth. Despite the difference in their social status – Suraya, the daughter of a top Communist leader in Afghanistan, and Sima, the daughter of the domestic help in their house – both women are soul sisters. Suraya studies politics and Sima music at the university of Kabul. But the country's political landscape is soon about to cause deep chasms between them.

Two women

Suraya takes on a political mantle after her father's assassination and Sima succumbs to pressure from her father to marry and follow tradition. The tension threatens to rip apart their relationship but better sense prevails and they decide to accept differences and save their bond. Suraya puts aside her annoyance that her friend is marrying early and gets her bridal dress ready. After all, they do share the same conviction to women's right to education and art. In the backdrop, Afghanistan is on the boil. Spies, assassinations, betrayals abound. Sima and her husband Wahab start attending meetings of the Muslim Youth, who oppose the Communist regime.

Sima and Suraya are clearly on opposite sides of the political divide. The reprisals against the Muslim Youth result in Sima's father being killed, at which point Suraya helps Sima and her husband to escape to the mountains to the mujahideen. But soon Wahab is killed and Sima is arrested and tortured for information. Meanwhile, in Kabul, the opposing factions within the Communist Party are in a power struggle and soon murder, imprisonment, and exile face Suraya's comrades. Suraya is arrested and interrogated on Sima and the mujahideen's whereabouts.

A poignant line in the film goes like this. Suraya is being advised by another woman politician 'You must leave the country to be safe'. And Suraya replies: "We can't all leave". The woman politician replies: "We can't all die". Suraya stays back and pays a heavy price. Sima and Suraya are reunited in prison. But it is too late. They realise they have just been pawns in the hands of two opposing groups. Suraya holds Sima in her arms through the night until Sima's dying breath.

Cut to 2023. Suraya's granddaughter now holds Sima's Rubab. Suraya plays a tape of Sima singing a song by the Persian poet Rumi. The director cuts to shots of Afghan women, demanding their rights. In fact, even as we spoke of hope at the Max Mueller Bhavan premises, a stone's throw from us, the Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqui had held a press conference that very day at the Afghanistan embassy in New Delhi and barred the entry of women journalists into the presser. This led to an uproar and the minister had to hold another press conference the following day where women journalists attended. "India is one of Afghanistan's closest friends and we want the government to speak out for the rights of Afghan women," Roya pleaded from exile.

At a post-screening conversation with director Roya Sadat, who joined me online from Canada, where her film *Sima's Song* had just won an award at the International Film Festival of South Asia in Toronto, she walked us through the challenges of filming in exile.

● On making the film in exile and its difficulties.

"The movie was meant to be shot in Afghanistan but with the Taliban taking over, I found myself suddenly in exile and the whole production had to move to Europe and had to take on many complex immigration challenges. At the time of the filming, there was an exodus from Afghanistan and we scoured many refugee camps to find the actors from across Europe. The filming was done in Greece and while through the refugee camps, several actors were chosen, they were also getting resettlement visas to other countries so there was a constant flux of actors. This was fortunate for them but unfortunate for us."

● According to statistics, around 8,000 journalists have left Afghanistan since then, of whom around 2,000 are women. On dealing with the invisibilisation of these journalists, women artists, and women filmmakers in Afghanistan since the Taliban walked into Kabul in August 2021.

"It is tragic for me to be winning awards while in exile and being unable to share this with my community. I am happy that this screening has provided me that space to reconnect with the community. As our voices are being suppressed, it is all the more reason that we must be louder. As filmmakers, it is critical that we use any medium to tell these stories. We live in hope that one day things will get better."

● Her next film.

"I want to make a comedy next," she says . For a moment the heavy mood in the audience lifts and everyone smiles. This is a good moment to invite her husband, Aziz Deldar, who is her screenplay writer on the call to say hello to everyone. In 2024, they made two films, *Sima's Song* and *The Sharp Edge of Peace* which her sister Alka Sadat , who also lives in exile, produced. These women Afghan filmmakers despite fighting heavy odds, are truly on fire. Roya and Aziz dream of returning to her country one day where women will once again go to school, university and work in public places. Just like the women in the rest of the world.

(The writer is a journalist and documentary filmmaker who has visited and written from Kabul and Herat in 2011 and 2013. She was in conversation with Roya Sadat recently)

The exhibition unfolds through an array of creations that reveal the quiet power of yakishime | KEVIN NASHON

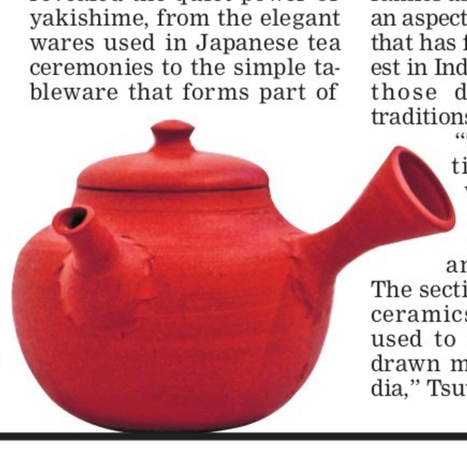
Tradition Takes Shape

The Japan Foundation and Consulate-General of Japan in B'luru presented a distinctive exhibition of Japan's unglazed ceramic tradition in the city

RESHMA SYED

FROM earth to art and fire to form, Japan's centuries-old yakishime pottery tradition found a new life in the city through Yakishime: Earth Metamorphosis, a travelling exhibition, celebrating the beauty of unglazed ceramics. The showcase, held recently at the Karnataka Chithrakala Parishath, highlighted the art of firing unglazed ceramics at high temperatures, a technique that is both fundamental and historically significant in Japan. Yakishime has evolved into many forms, reflecting a blend of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary creativity.

The exhibition unfolded through an array of creations that revealed the quiet power of yakishime, from the elegant wares used in Japanese tea ceremonies to the simple tableware that forms part of everyday life. Alongside these familiar forms were striking, sculptural pieces by contemporary ceramic artists. Together, they traced yakishime's journey from tradition to modern art, showing how an age-old craft continues to evolve while staying rooted in its earthy origins. Speaking about the showcase, **Nakane Tsutomu**, Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru, said it is an honour to share a part of Japan's traditional culture with the city. "We understand that the people of Bengaluru hold a keen interest in foreign cultures," he noted.



For Indian audiences, the exhibition offered more than an aesthetic experience. It opened a window into Japan's cultural heritage and philosophy, where simplicity and form come together in harmony. A special section was dedicated to ceramics used in tea ceremonies, an aspect of Japanese culture that has found growing interest in India, especially among those drawn to matcha traditions.

"Through this collection of yakishime works, we wished to share the spirit of Japanese creativity and craftsmanship. The section on tea ceremony ceramics, especially those used to enjoy matcha, has drawn much interest in India," Tsutomu said.

CITY READ

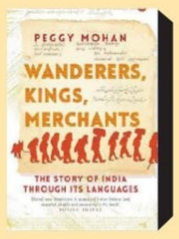
Walkathon celebrates fight against polio

Rotary District 3192 recently organised a walkathon to mark World Polio Day. District Convenor Prof Elizabeth Cherian led the walk that began at the Kempe Gowda statue near Vidhana Soudha and concluded at the Rotary House of Friendship, Lavelle Road. Over 400 Rotarians joined the march. The event celebrated Rotary's decades-long leadership in eradicating polio and called on citizens to unite for a polio-free world. For over forty years, Rotary International has spearheaded the global fight against polio through initiatives such as PolioPlus and partnerships with the WHO, UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Devotees take part in the traditional Kali Puja held during Deepavali celebrations at Shriram Sameeksha Apartment, Jalahalli

A still from the film

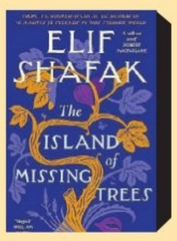
BOOK NOOK



Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India Through Its Languages

by Peggy Mohan

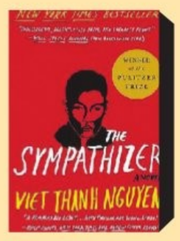
An absorbing linguistic history that reveals how India's languages evolved through centuries of migration, trade, and empire.



The Island of Missing Trees

by Elif Shafak

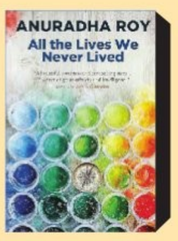
Told partly through the perspective of a fig tree, this poignant novel explores love and loss amid Cyprus's divided history.



The Sympathizer

by Viet Thanh Nguyen

This gripping spy thriller and political satire follows a double agent from Vietnam living in exile in Los Angeles.



All the Lives We Never Lived

by Anuradha Roy

Set against the turbulence of pre-independence India, this novel follows Myshkin, who recalls his mother's disappearance years ago.

IMMERSED IN SCAPE

Justice V Srishananda (left) takes a keen look at Landscapes of the Lens, a solo exhibition by artist S Jayarama Reddy at the Indian Institute of World Culture Art Gallery, Basavanagudi | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

QUICKFIX

RAGI SMOOTHIE

Contributed by **Sheeba Rathna,** Chennai

INGREDIENTS

- **Ragi powder:** 3 tbsp
- **Apple or banana:** 1
- **Sugar or honey:** As per sweet preference
- **Dates:** 5
- **Milk:** 1/2 cup

METHOD

- Mix ragi powder in a little water and boil it. Let it thicken.
- Once it cools down, transfer it into a mixer jar. Add milk, peeled apple, dates, and sweetener and blend well.
- You can opt for banana instead of apple. Then add some nuts of choice either as garnish or to blend.
- Serve cold or in room temperature.

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

My 4-year-old rescue Boxer is very fearful around most people, even ones she's met many times. She often paces or shakes and has a hard time relaxing. She's active, well-exercised, and not destructive. What could help her feel better without changing who she is?

Your Boxer likely suffers from fear-based anxiety, which is common in rescue dogs, especially those with difficult pasts. Her fear around people – even familiar ones – shows she needs support to build confidence. Gradual desensitisation and positive reinforcement, like giving treats during calm interactions, can help her feel safer. Tools such as Adaptil diffusers, calming wraps, or natural supplements may also ease anxiety. Keep her environment calm and predictable. With time, consistency, and possibly help from a certified behaviorist, she can improve while still being her true self.

FITBIT

THE VITAMIN D DILEMMA: WHY SUNSHINE ISN'T ALWAYS JUST ENOUGH

It seems ironic that in a country blessed with sunlight year-round, Vitamin D deficiency affects millions. The truth is that modern lifestyles, pollution, and sunscreen use limit how much sunlight our skin can convert into this vital nutrient. The result is a silent epidemic that impacts immunity, mood, bone strength, and even long-term metabolic health.

WHY VITAMIN D IS ESSENTIAL

Vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium and phosphorus – two minerals crucial for strong bones, teeth, and muscle function. It also supports immune health and regulates mood through its role in serotonin production. Low levels are linked to fatigue, low immunity, frequent infections, hair loss, depression, and poor recovery from exercise. Emerging research even connects Vitamin D deficiency to insulin resistance and hormonal imbalance, particularly in women.

THE SUNLIGHT MYTH

While sunlight triggers Vitamin D synthesis, not all exposure counts. Factors such as darker skin tone, use of sunscreen, pollution, and limited outdoor time can drastically reduce conversion. Urban residents spend most of their day indoors, and standing near a window doesn't help – glass blocks the UVB rays required for synthesis. Ideally, 15-20 minutes of direct sunlight exposure on the arms and face, three times a week, is recommended. Early morning or late afternoon sunlight is gentler but may not always provide adequate UVB, so timing matters.

FOOD AND SUPPLEMENTS

Dietary sources include egg yolks, fatty fish like salmon or sardines, fortified milk, and mushrooms exposed to sunlight. However, food alone often provides only a fraction of what's needed. When deficiency is confirmed through a blood test, supplements are usually prescribed, but taking them without guidance can lead to toxicity.

THE TAKEAWAY

Vitamin D is more than a bone vitamin; it's very important for immunity and mental well-being. Balancing sensible sun exposure with nutrient-rich foods, and medical advice can help restore optimal levels naturally.

By Madhura Paroolkar, nutrition expert, cult — a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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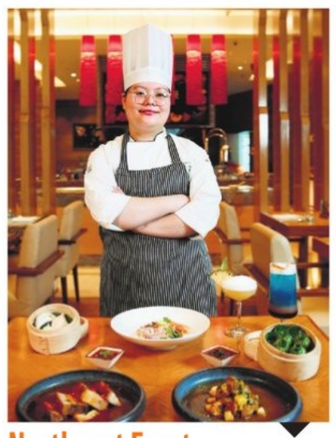
WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Northeast Feast

Embark on a gastronomic adventure as chef **Ongmu** curates a menu to celebrate the distinct flavours of Northeast India. From Tripura's bamboo shoot curry (Mai Borok) to Assam's sour fish stew (Masor Tenga), savour the authenticity and diversity of this rich culinary region.

WHEN: October 27, 7.30pm onwards
WHERE: Bengaluru Marriott Hotel, Whitefield
CALL: 97441 04046

Tranquil Flow

Step into a world of tranquility and wellness. This workshop focuses on relaxation techniques, breathing exercises and healing therapies to restore your inner peace. Ideal for both beginners and seasoned practitioners, the session merges traditional and modern yoga practices for a holistic experience.

WHEN: October 27, 6.30pm **WHERE:** NYDC Yoga Loft, Ranka Colony Road **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Laugh Out Loud

Get ready for an evening of non-stop laughter! Featuring top comedians, this show promises to deliver a night full of energy, spontaneous fun and side-splitting jokes. Whether you're a comedy aficionado or just looking for a good time, this show has you covered.

WHEN: October 27, 12pm onwards
WHERE: The Comedy Theatre, Church Street
DETAILS: district.in

Clay Date

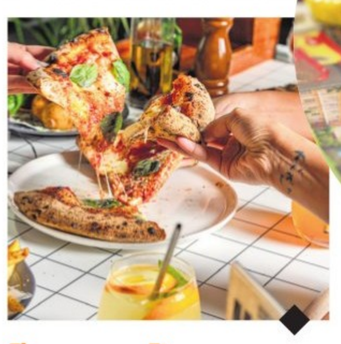
Immerse yourself in this art event where creativity and relaxation come together. Create pocket-sized clay creatures while socialising with art lovers in a relaxed, vibrant atmosphere. This hands-on experience focuses on fun, imagination, and crafting adorable miniatures to take home as a memory.

WHEN: October 27, 6.30pm
WHERE: NYDC Yoga Loft, Ranka Colony Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Kid's Wonderland

At this event, children can dive into DIY crafts, bounce around in trampoline parks, explore soft play zones and enjoy pretend play rooms. It's a space for non-stop fun, while parents can relax with the drop-and-shop service.

WHEN: October 27, 10am onwards
WHERE: Mantri Square Mall, Malleswaram
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Flavours on Fire

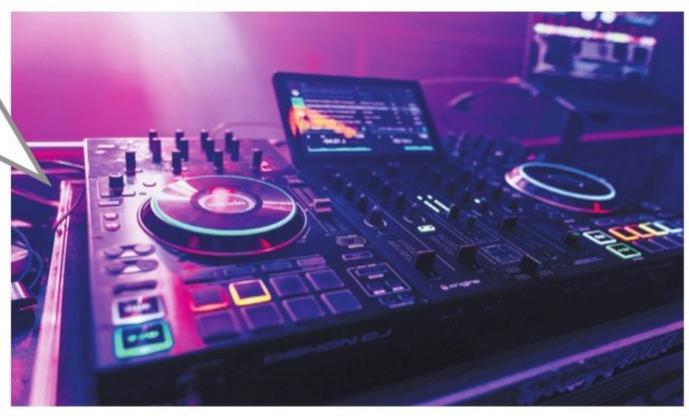
Get ready for a bold new flavour experience as Brik Oven partners with Red Rhino to offer a beer-infused pizza dough. With creative pies like the Drunken Margherita, Hoppy Harvest, Buzzed Bird and Malted Beast, this collaboration promises the best of craft brews and wood-fired pizza.

WHEN: October 22 to 31, 8am to 12am
WHERE: Brik Oven, Indiranagar and Whitefield **CALL:** 81696 64007 (Indiranagar), 74836 61854 (Whitefield)

Bollywood Rhythms

Kick off your Monday night with an electrifying set by DJ Sulectro, spinning the hottest Bollywood and Punjabi tracks. This high-energy event promises a night full of dance, fun and unbeatable vibes.

WHEN: October 27, 7.30pm onwards
WHERE: Nolimmits Lounge & Club, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: district.in



ARTCORNER

UNSPOKEN CALM

In his watercolour painting, artist Abhijeet Bahadure captures the quiet poetry of everyday life, where stillness itself becomes a story

Hit the THAR-tle

With an engine that roars, the new Mahindra Thar doubles down on what those who sit behind its wheel enjoy most: off-roading

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

MAHINDRA has recently launched the facelifted version of its iconic SUV, the Thar. Although the external character remains as rugged and impressive as before, Mahindra has added utility features and upgrades without altering its technical specifications.

Mahindra provided us with an opportunity to test its off-road prowess at its Off-road Adventure Training Academy at Igatpuri, Maharashtra.

EXTERIOR

The grille is now body coloured. The bumper is now dual-tone, and the all-black dashboard has a new 26.03 cm HD infotainment touch screen and a new steering design. These are highlights we can see at first sight. And on a closer look, we can see grand handles to help enter the SUV easily.

Other easily notable utility features are the fuel-lid opening switch in the cabin, rear AC vents, and power-window switches on the doors. The new centre console has a sliding armrest too. Dead pedal in Automatic Transmission variants, rear wash & wiper, and rear view camera are also very useful additions.

However, some sore points remain, such as entry to the rear bench, very little boot space, etc.

SMART CONNECTIVITY AND FEATURES

The New Thar is equipped with a 26.03 cm (10.25 inch) HD infotainment screen that supports Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, along with Type-C USB ports, providing seamless integration of smartphones. The Tyre Direction Monitoring system gives real-time information on tyre orientation, enhancing safety. For adventure enthusiasts, the Adventure Stats Gen II feature offers valuable off-road data such as a racing tab, altimeter, outside temperature and pressure, trip meter, and steering direction. Their functions were visible when we went off-roading.

ENGINE AND POWERTRAIN OPTIONS

Mahindra offers two diesel engines and one petrol engine option to suit diverse driving preferences, paired with multiple transmissions – 6-speed manual transmission, 6-speed torque converter automatic transmission, in rear wheel drive as well as 4X4 configurations.

The smaller diesel engine (1.5-litre CRDe) produces 117 hp peak power and 300 Nm peak torque. It only comes with a manual transmission. The base variant comes at just Rs 9.99 lakh (Rs 31,000 less than the outgoing base model). This sub-10 lakh variant attracts 13% road tax, while all others have 15% tax.

The 2.2-litre mHawk Diesel engine has 130 hp and 300 Nm torque. It comes in manual and automatic transmission as well as 4-wheel drive capability. The 2-litre mStallion Petrol comes with a peak power of 150 hp and peak torque of 300 Nm in the manual version and 320 Nm in automatic. RWD and 4-wheel drive options are available.

ON THE TEST TRACK

On the Igatpuri test track, I had to take the Thar through slush, steep gradients, water bodies, uneven paths with pits, and rock-strewn trails. Along with all technical off-roading capabilities, the Thar has 226 mm ground clearance and 650 mm water wading ability.

When my Thar moved into the slush pit as the first test, all these helped me navigate without tension. The traction in that extreme condition was commendable.

There was an articulation track with trenches and uneven ramps as the path. Without compromising the composure in the cabin, the SUV easily managed this one-wheel-in-the-air adventure. The approach (4.18 degrees), departure (36 degrees), and ramp-over (27 degrees) angles, too, helped the SUV manage the terrain without scratching any body part. The SUV performed well in extreme inclines and gradients, too. The power and torque delivery are amazing in such situations.

On the road, it behaves a little better than the outgoing model. I couldn't test it enough on highways, though.

VERDICT

The new 3-door Thar is a much more lovable indeed. Even though there is the 5-door Thar Roxx for more comfy rides, the 3-door Thar retains its identity as a lifestyle vehicle. It is for off-road enthusiasts as well as people who like road presence and a real SUV. The engines are powerful and smooth.

The pricing is now more attractive. And, of course, it's not for the mileage-crazy folks out there!

THAR EX-SHOWROOM PRICE

Variants	D117 CRDe Diesel	2.2L mHawk Diesel	2.0 mStallion Petrol
AXT RWD MT	₹9.99 lakh	–	–
LXT RWD MT	₹12.19 lakh	–	–
LXT RWD AT	–	–	₹13.99 lakh
LXT 4WD MT	–	₹15.49 lakh	₹14.69 lakh
LXT 4WD AT	–	₹16.99 lakh	₹16.25 lakh

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

Mahindra rolls out refreshed versions of Bolero, Bolero Neo

NEW RELEASE

NEW BOLERO

With a new bold grille, fog lamps, and diamond-cut alloy wheels, the Bolero is now bolder and more stylish. It is powered by the mHAWK75 engine delivering power of 55.9 kW (75 hp) and 210 Nm torque. Available in four variants. New colour option includes Stealth Black, along with existing Diamond White, DSAT Silver, and Rocky Beige. Bolero starts at ₹7.99 lakh (ex-showroom) and goes up to ₹9.69 lakh.

NEW BOLERO NEO

The New Bolero Neo combines toughness with sophistication. The sleek new grille with striking horizontal accents and dark metallic grey R16 alloy wheels set the Bolero Neo apart. Powered by the mHAWK100 engine delivering power of 73.5 kW (98.5 hp) and 260 Nm torque, the Bolero Neo includes cruise control and Multi-Terrain Technology (MTT) for enhanced traction over broken roads through a locking differential. New colours include Jeans Blue and Concrete Grey, and three dual-tone options, along with existing Diamond White, Stealth Black, Pearl White, and Rocky Beige. The new Bolero Neo price ranges from ₹8.49 lakh to ₹9.99 lakh. With a legacy of 25 years and over 16 lakh customers, it remains a versatile SUV. It excels at navigating diverse terrains, from city streets to rural landscapes, offering adaptability and value. Both are body-on-frame models.

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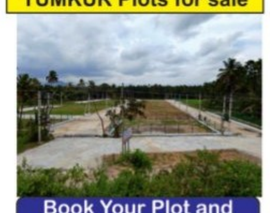
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PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

DECLARATION
I, **MOHAMMED ARHAM NAWAZ** S/o Mohammed Nawaz, Aged about 9 years, R/at 20th Ward, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town, Southegowdanahalli Village, Devanahalli Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural - 562110, I confirm that all the names **MOHAMMAD ARHAM NAWAZ** and **MOHAMMED ARHAM NAWAZ** one and the same person and i.e. me only, vide affidavit dated 18-10-2025, sworn before notary T. Narayanaswamy, Bengaluru Rural Dist.

DECLARATION
I, **MOHAMMED NAWAZ** S/o Abdul Rasheed, Aged about 37 years, R/at 20th Ward, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town, Southegowdanahalli Village, Devanahalli Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural - 562110, I confirm that all the names **MAHOMMED NAWAZ** and **MOHAMMED NAWAZ** one and the same person and i.e. me only, vide affidavit dated 18-10-2025, sworn before notary T. Narayanaswamy, Bengaluru Rural Dist.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SOWJANYA N,** W/o Mr.R.Bhaskar Rao, 51 years, R/o: No 548, 4th Cross, 7th Main Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru-560086. I have changed my name from **SOWJANNYA KADAM N** to **SOWJANYA N** for all purposes Vide Affidavit Dated 24.10.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary B. G. Sriram, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sinchana G D/o Girish and Vedavathi G, aged about 18 years, residing at No. 55, Thathaguni Village and Post, Kanakapura Main Road, Opp. to Govt. School, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560082 have changed my Mother name from SUCHITRA P to VEDAVATHI G vide affidavit dated 23.10.2025 sworn before Notary B. Prasanna.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ROSHNI .B,** aged about 24 years, D/o Babulal V Patel, R/at No.149/150, Rashmi Rise Apartment, Beml layout, 4th Stage, Sri Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560098 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ROSHINI .B to ROSHNI .B PATEL** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ROSHNI .B PATEL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 18-10-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ARUNA .V** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **R SWARNALATHA SURESH** W/o Suresh Subramaniam , R/at Flat No. C706, Tower-C, 7th Floor, Shriram Greenfield, Bommena Halli Road, Virgo Nagar, Bangalore-560 049 do hereby declare that my correct name is **R SWARNALATHA SURESH**, but in my passport my name is mentioned as **SWARNALATHA**, now I have changed given name as **RAMANATHAN SWARNALATHA** instead of **SWARNALATHA**, vide affidavit dated 15-10-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **H.M. GOVINDARAJU** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANJUSHA P KAMATH,** W/o Prashanth kamath, aged about 44 years, R/at Flat No.202, 3rd Floor, Nirman Residential Apartments, Nirman layout, Bannerghatta Road, VTC Jigani, Anekal taluk, Bangalore Dist, but in my aadhar and pan card my name is mentioned as **MANJUSHA BALACHANDRA VIBHUTE** now I have changed my name as **MANJUSHA P KAMATH** henceforth I shall be known and called as in all my records as **MANJUSHA P KAMATH** vide affidavit dated 18-10-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MUNISWAMY .T** at Anekal Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
KARNATAKA STATE BAR COUNCIL, OLD ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICE, DR. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BANGALORE-560001
NOTIFICATION No. 8/2025 DATED: 25-10-2025
The Karnataka State Bar Council in its meeting held on **31st August, 2025** vide Res. No. 76/2025, has permitted the following advocate to change his name from Sri. Siddesh .S to **SIDDESH S GOWDA (Kar/1339/2017)**
PADMAVATHI G, I/c Secretary
Karnataka State Bar Council

CHANGE OF NAME
KARNATAKA STATE BAR COUNCIL, OLD ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICE, DR. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BANGALORE-560001
NOTIFICATION No. 8/2025 DATED: 25-10-2025
The Karnataka State Bar Council in its meeting held on **31st August, 2025** vide Res. No. 76/2025, has permitted the following advocate to change his name from Sri. Somashekhar B'lore to **SOMASHEKHAR RAJAVAMSHI (Kar/743/2023)**
PADMAVATHI G, I/c Secretary
Karnataka State Bar Council

CHANGE OF NAME
KARNATAKA STATE BAR COUNCIL, OLD ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICE, DR. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BANGALORE-560001
NOTIFICATION No. 8/2025 DATED: 25-10-2025
The Karnataka State Bar Council in its meeting held on **31st August, 2025** vide Res. No. 76/2025, has permitted the following advocate to change her name from Smt. Stuthi Shetty M to **STUTHI KISHORE SHETTY (Kar/656/97)**
PADMAVATHI G, I/c Secretary
Karnataka State Bar Council

CHANGE OF NAME
KARNATAKA STATE BAR COUNCIL, OLD ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICE, DR. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BANGALORE-560001
NOTIFICATION No. 8/2025 DATED: 25-10-2025
The Karnataka State Bar Council in its meeting held on **31st August, 2025** vide Res. No. 76/2025, has permitted the following advocate to change his name from Sri. Martujasab M Jatiger Badami to **MARTUJASAB M HARTI (Kar/3911/99)**
PADMAVATHI G, I/c Secretary
Karnataka State Bar Council

CHANGE OF NAME
KARNATAKA STATE BAR COUNCIL, OLD ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICE, DR. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BANGALORE-560001
NOTIFICATION No. 8/2025 DATED: 25-10-2025
The Karnataka State Bar Council in its meeting held on **31st August, 2025** vide Res. No. 76/2025, has permitted the following advocate to change her name from Smt. Geetha .R to **GEETHA RAJ (Kar/1414/99)**
PADMAVATHI G, I/c Secretary
Karnataka State Bar Council

CHANGE OF NAME
KARNATAKA STATE BAR COUNCIL, OLD ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICE, DR. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BANGALORE-560001
NOTIFICATION No. 8/2025 DATED: 25-10-2025
The Karnataka State Bar Council in its meeting held on **31st August, 2025** vide Res. No. 76/2025, has permitted the following advocate to change his name from Sri. Huleppa Imbadi, B'lore to **HULEPPA HEROOR (Kar/630/89)**
PADMAVATHI G, I/c Secretary
Karnataka State Bar Council

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MEER SALAMATHULLA MEER FAHAD MARVAN**, S/o. Meer Salamathulla, Age 21 years, Residing at Flat No. 88, 30 KG 2nd Cross, HBR Layout, 2nd Stage, Rashad Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 045, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MEER SALAMATHULLA MEER FAHAD MARVAN** to **MEER FAHAD MARVAN** vide affidavit dated 24.10.2025 sworn to before Meer Hassan, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PURUSHOTHAM BHAT, S/o. Parameshwar Bhat, aged about 54 years, residing at No. 1950, Namah Shree Nilaya, 7th Main, 2nd Cross, Sir M. Vishweshwariaah Layout, 3rd Block, Bengaluru-560056. By mistake, my daughter ICSE 10th Statement of Marks & Pass Certificate my name has been wrongly mentioned as PURUSHOTAM BHAT instead of **PURUSHOTHAM BHAT**. I am requesting CISCE to add H letter in my Daughter ICSE 10th STATEMENT OF MARKS AND PASS CERTIFICATE. Vide affidavit dated 24-10-25. Sworn before The Chief Magistrate Judicial, Bengaluru City.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KARUNYA D.S** Aged about 35 years, Daughter of D K Amarnath, Residing at No.410, Srinidhi, 18th Main Road, 4th "T" Block, Opp., Ratna Clinic, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041, have changed my name from **KARUNYA A DONTHI** to **KARUNYA D.S**, vide affidavit dated 25/10/2025 sworn to before Arun R Naik Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I,**FOUZIA NASREEN** wife of Mohamed Akbar Residing at No A006, Surya Kiran Apartments, 42/1, Netaji Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560 005, have changed my name from **FAUZIA NASREEN** to **FOUZIA NASREEN**, vide affidavit dated 24/10/2025 sworn to before Fahim Unnisa Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KUNTEE MAHARANA** mother of No 13623815L Hav Bulu Maharana resident of Vill & Post-Jakara, Teh-Digaphandi, Distt- Ganjam (Odisha), PIN-761042 I have change my name from **KUNTEE MAHARANA** to **KUNTI MAHARANA** vide affidavit No IN-KA75495084220165X dt 23 Oct 2025 before notary by Sivakumara M.N, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JYOTHI BAYAMBE,** W/o Hariprasad K N, aged about 42 years, residing at No. 178, 5th cross, Teachers Layout, Nagrabhavi 1st stage. Bangalore-560072. Hereby declare that I have changed my name from **JYOTHI BAYAMBE to JYOTHI BAYAMBE MAYYA (Jyothi b Mayya) Also JYOTHI B MAYYA, JYOTHI BAYAMBE and JYOTHI BAYAMBE MAYYA** Belongs to one and the same person, Henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **JYOTHI BAYAMBE MAYYA (JYOTHI B MAYYA)** vide affidavit dated 26-10-2025, Sworn before advocate and Notary, **Deepa.M,** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Shakunthala, (Passport No.S4306333) wife of P. Krishna Kumar, aged 56 years, resident of #1, 9th Cross, Sapthagiri Nagar, Chikkasandra, Bangalore North, T.Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560057, Karnataka, have changed my name from **SHAKUNTHALA to SHAKUNTHALA PONNUSWAMY** vide affidavit dated: 24.10.2025 sworn before advocate and notary Uday Kariyappa .B.G, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BUDIGERE LAKSHMINARAYAN LOKESH,** S/o Munivenkatappa Lakshminarayanappa, aged about 56 years, residing Old No 34, New No 22, 11th Cross, 4th Main, L N Puram, Srirampuram Post, Bengaluru 560021 do hereby state that the names **a) Budigere Lakshminarayan Lokesh, b) B L Lokesh, c) Lokesh B L, d) Boodhigere Lakshminarayana Lokesh,** all belong to one and same person that is myself, Vide-affidavit dated 26-10-2025. Sworn before advocate and Notary, Chandrashekar C N, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr. CHRISTOPHER EMMANUEL R, S/o Richard, Aged about 32 years, Residing at: # 237, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, BDS Nagar, Kothanur PO, Bangalore, Karnataka -560077, have changed my name from **CHRISTOPHER R to CHRISTOPHER EMMANUEL** vide affidavit dated 21/10/2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary, D. Rajanna, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, M S FAYAZ PASHA S/o. Fazl Ur Rehman, residing at No. 13, 2nd Cross B Street, JJR Nagar, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018, have changed my name from **FAIYAZ PASHA to M S FAYAZ PASHA** vide affidavit dated 25/10/2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary, Deepa .M, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, UMA HARINATH, W/o. Mr.Harinath Dharmapuri Parameshwaran, No.420, Royal Park Residency, J.P. Nagar 9th Phase, Alahalli, Bangalore -560062, I have changed my name from UMA B.K to UMA HARINATH, before Notary Public D.K. Rameshappa, Bangalore, Notary Register No.1166, vide Affidavit on 24/10/2025.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MUQBOOL JAN Spouse of Retired Service No: 7096188-H Rank: Ex NAIK - Name: Late SHAIK SYED GHOUSE MODIN permanent residing at: 1-522, 11th Cross, 2nd Ward Kondappa Layout Yelahanka Old Town Bengaluru- 560064 have changed my name from **MAGABUL JAN to MUQBOOL JAN** and my date of birth is 16-07-1948 to 01/01/1951 vide affidavit dated 24/10/2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary, Uday Kumar .K, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DIPAK SINGH F/o YASH SINGH, (DOB:28-03-2013) R/o:: #C5 404, Ramky One North, Doddaballapura Main Road, Opp. BMSIT College, Avalahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064, India, have changed my minor Son's name from **YASH SINGH to YASHMIT SINGH** vide Affidavit Dated 25-10-2025, sworn to before Notary Public G.P. CHAYA, Bengaluru-

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAMAKRISHNAN SWATHI, W/o Rajiv Venkataraman, aged 37 years, Residing at No.37, 2nd Cross, Sri Durga Parameshwari Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097, Karnataka, have changed my name to **SWATHI RAJIV** vide affidavit dated 25.10.2025. Sworn before advocate and notary N. Kanchivaradaraju, Bangalore.

For SMART ADS & INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

Vishwas

Sahana Murthy

The director, who plans to include actors from various languages, has initiated talks with Sunny Leone

Sahana Murthy to shift tracks for his upcoming pan-Indian entertainer

A SHARADHAA

FILMMAKER Sahana Murthy, known for movies like *Rose*, *Mass Leader*, and *Trivikrama*, is stepping into a new area with his next project, a full-fledged comedy, designed to connect with audiences across different languages. Produced by Vishwas under Vishwas World Tech Pvt Ltd, the film is shaping up to be one of Sahana Murthy's most ambitious project to date.

Unlike his previous works that focused on romance, action, and drama, this project dives into comedy. The director believes this genre is both universal and needed today. "We have seen regular comedies like *Golmaal*, *Golmaal Returns*, and Welcome. But the story I wrote takes it a step further. That's why I wanted to make it in multiple languages. The humour and story can appeal to everyone."

The filmmaker has already begun talks with actors from the Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi industries, aiming for a diverse cast that reflects the film's pan-Indian vision. Interestingly, he has also started discussions with actor Sunny Leone for a key role in the film.

Having tried various genres over the years, Sahana Murthy acknowledges that figuring out what the audience truly wants has been a journey. "When I look at the audience, I see that what they ultimately want is a good entertainer. We've seen hundreds of love stories and action dramas that include some comedy. I wanted to focus entirely on humour. It's something I've never done before, and I'm excited to explore it in my fifth film."

Elaborating on his vision, Sahana Murthy says, "I want people to come to theatres, laugh as much as they can, and forget their worries. If I can make them laugh and enjoy those two hours, that will be my biggest success."

Sunny Leone

KHUSHBU MA'AM INSPIRED ME TO TURN PRODUCER: TANISHA KUPPANDA

A SHARADHAA

The actor-turned-producer opens up about breaking stereotypes, building her own brand, and taking charge with *Kona*, a fantasy horror comedy starring Komal Kumar, releasing this week

A still from the film

TANISHA Kuppanda is often recognised for her glamorous on-screen image and her appearance on Bigg Boss. However, before all that, she was a young girl in fourth grade dreaming of becoming an actor. "It was a childhood dream," she recalls. "I had no film background or connections, so getting this far on my own feels like a big achievement."

Her upcoming film *Kona*, directed by Hari Krishna and releasing on October 31, marks a significant step for her. Not only does she star as the female lead opposite Komal Kumar, but she also takes on the role of producer for the first time. "I don't have a godfather, nor am I from a rich family. I created my own brand, and I'm here to fulfill my vision. Everything I have today is earned," she says with conviction.

Tanisha acknowledges that many have labelled her "just a glam actor" for years. "Bigg Boss helped people see the real me. It made them realise they shouldn't judge a book by its cover. The show allowed me to connect with people directly, and they got to know who I really am," she explains. However, fame brought its own misconceptions. "After Bigg Boss, many assumed I had everything—cars, money, support. But nobody pays your bills. I worked hard for everything I have. My business, my acting, my lifestyle, it's all built from scratch. I've made my own way, and my partners believe in me because of my work and communication," she shares.

With *Kona*, Tanisha hopes to change people's perceptions of her. "I had to create a role in my own film to prove that I can be versatile. I've done glamorous roles, but I can also handle subtle and strong ones," she says, adding, "I got a few lead offers before, but some films were never released. I failed there but never gave up. I became my own guide. Now, I'm ready to take on experimental subjects."

Interestingly, her interest in production started years ago. "In 2018, I was working on a series called Lakshmi Stories. Khushbu ma'am was the producer, and I admired how she was respected and treated. I decided then that I also wanted to become a producer," Tanisha recalls, and adds, "No one gave me the strong role I wanted, so I thought I'd create it myself."

Kona is a fantasy horror comedy where Tanisha plays Lakshmi, a character with shades she's never portrayed before. "*Kona* gave me the chance to show that I'm not just a glam doll. Acting is my passion. The character matters most to me," she states. "Even as a producer, I made sure I did what the film demanded."

Working with Komal Kumar was both comfortable and inspiring for her. "From the script stage, Komal was in our minds. On screen, he delivered everything needed, and off screen, he was every bit a producer's actor. He helped us with his contacts, improved our production quality, and supported us like a true team player. Even Jaggesh sir backed us at every step," Tanisha says.

The film also stars Raghu Ramana Koppa, Rithvi Jagadhish, Vijay Chendur, M K Mutt, and Jagadish Kumar S (Jagappa). It has music by Shashank Seshagiri, cinematography by Venus Nagaraj Murthy, and is co-produced by Ravi Kiran and Sankalp. Tanisha reveals she personally designed her costumes to match her audience's expectations. "People who know me as bold and daring will see me in a completely new light."

As *Kona* prepares for release, Tanisha reflects on the journey that shaped her. "Every phase has been a lesson. I've stumbled, learned, and built myself up again. Today, I stand proud because I didn't give up. *Kona* is a reflection of my growth, my risk, and my faith in myself."

Tanisha Kuppanda

When love becomes a battlefield between the heart and the brain

A SHARADHAA

DILMAAR
Director: M Chandramouli
Cast: Ram Gowda, Sai Kumar, Aditi Prabhudeva, Dimple Hayathi, and Sharath Lohitashwa

RATING 2.5/5

PSYCHO Shukla (Ram Gowda) is an A-Class lover in *Dilmaar*. He fights for his feelings rather than giving up. At first, he seems like a typical one-sided lover. In *Dilmaar*, debut director M Chandramouli, known for his work as a writer on KGF, attempts to mix action, romance, humour, and madness. The result is an ambitious yet uneven blend of passion and pain. It hints at psychological depth but largely oscillates between mass entertainment, romance, and sacrifice.

Shukla is a passionate and mysterious youngster who arrives in a village and quickly falls for Akshara (Aditi Prabhudeva), the daughter of Shaane Gowda (Sharath Lohith), a powerful man. However, Akshara is already in love with Vishal and is preparing to marry him. Shukla's relentless pursuit of her love throws the village into chaos. Akshara's angry brother Bhaira and Vishal's gang have reasons to confront this self-proclaimed 'lover'.

The first half of the film follows the formula of a commercial entertainer, filled with catchy dialogues and stylised fights. Chandramouli relies heavily on one-liners and action-packed sequences designed to thrill the audience. Yet beneath this mass-appeal facade lies a darker story: a man whose love borders on obsession and whose heart gradually overtakes his sanity.

Chandramouli makes an interesting casting choice by pairing newcomer Ram Gowda with veteran Sai Kumar, who plays the antagonist with his usual commanding presence. With his baritone, Sai Kumar delivers memorable lines, yet the screenplay does not provide the emotional depth his character deserves. Menacing though he is, the villain remains underdeveloped, a shadow that never fully materialises.

Amidst the tension, the director occasionally lightens the mood with humour, keeping the tone balanced even as blood spills and tempers flare. The film truly comes alive in the second half, where Shukla's unusual mindset takes centre stage. A flashback involving Maya (Dimple Hayathi), a woman from his past, reveals the man behind the madness. Shukla initially resists love, but after heartbreak with Maya, he becomes drawn to Akshara, connecting her to memories that haunt him. Chandramouli maintains suspense right up to the climax.

Dilmaar explores psychological nuance. Shukla's musings on love, destiny, and death unfold like diary entries of a man who refuses to heed reason. His friend calls him a psycho, a man who laughs at funerals and prays to electric poles because he believes God is everywhere. Shukla listens to his heart over his mind; when logic warns him, he ignores it. This conflict fuels both his madness and his humanity.

In a scene, Shukla stands in a crematorium and says, "This place teaches more lessons than life itself." It encapsulates the film's essence: a man who loves too deeply, thinks too little, and lives entirely by emotion. Chandramouli builds a story around the chaos between heart and mind, where love turns obsessive and passion teeters on the edge of madness.

Ram Gowda's debut performance as Shukla oscillates between affection and insanity, leaving the audience unsure whether to pity or fear him. Aditi Prabhudeva brings grace and nuance to Akshara, torn between sympathy, confusion, and fear. Dimple Hayathi, though brief, leaves a lasting impact as Maya. Sai Kumar, despite his formidable presence, remains underutilised, functioning more as a symbol of anger than as a layered villain.

Chandramouli's direction is bold but uneven. His writing bears the hallmarks of mass cinema: loud, punchy, and occasionally heavy-handed. While the dialogues hit in isolation, the story struggles to balance mass appeal with emotional resonance. *Dilmaar* aims to depict how love can drive a man to madness, but at times, it prioritises style over substance.

Despite its flaws, the film earns credit for exploring the fine line between love and obsession within a mainstream framework. It is occasionally engaging, a story of a man grappling with his heart, refusing to listen to his brain, and losing gracefully.

Dilmaar is ultimately a tale of love, obsession, ego, and the cost of feeling too deeply. It asks what happens when emotion takes the reins, even if it leads one over the edge. The film is uneven but fascinating, blending mass appeal, romance, and action, where love shines brighter than logic, sometimes too brightly for its own good.

Carrie series wraps filming

CE FEATURES

FOLLOWING the feature adaptations of Stephen King's Gerald's Game, *The Life of Chuck*, and *Doctor Sleep*, Mike Flanagan's latest adaptation of King's *Carrie* TV series has wrapped production.

The titular role will be played by Summer Howell as a teenager with budding telekinetic abilities. Samantha Sloyan will be seen as Carrie's intimidating mother, Margaret White. The series will also feature Alison Thornton as Chris Hargensen, Siena Agudong as Sue Snell, Amber Midthunder as Miss Desjardin, Arthur Conti as Billy Nolan, Joel Oulette as Tommy Ross, and Matthew Lillard as Principal Grayle. The roles played by Katee Sackhoff and Rahul Kohli are yet to be revealed by the makers.

Carrie (1974) is King's debut novel, and its success led to a highly acclaimed 1976 film adaptation, starring Sissy Spacek, from director Brian De Palma. The 2013 remake directed by Kimberly Peirce starred Chloë Grace Moretz. There was also a television film adaptation in 2002, titled The Rage: *Carrie 2*.

With the release expected in 2026, the series has now entered the post-production stage. Flanagan also serves as the series's writer, showrunner, and executive producer under his banner, Intrepid Pictures.

Deva Sharma takes a leap of faith with Arjun Yogi's *Varna*

CE FEATURES

FROM the corporate world to the creative field of cinema, Deva Sharma's journey is truly exciting. A line from the Bhagavad Gita inspired the story of *Varna*, but it was his strong belief that brought it to life. "Initially, I planned *Varna* as a short film. However, when producer Mallineni Naveen Chowdhary heard the script, he simply said, 'This story deserves a bigger stage. Let's make it without compromise.'"

That decision changed a simple idea into a complete feature film, marking a turning point for Deva and everyone involved. Businessman Naveen Chowdhary from Pavagada says, "I trusted Deva's vision. He had something meaningful to say, and I wanted to support that honesty. I just told him to make it well, and he has."

Varna tells a story filled with rural spirit, about a man who stands for truth and justice. Arjun Yogi brings that spirit to life in the lead role. "This is my fifth film and one that means a lot to me. *Varna* is a straightforward village youth who doesn't tolerate mistakes. His world is simple but filled with integrity," says Arjun.

A still from the film

Bhavya Gowda, who stars alongside Arjun, plays Suma, a gentle village girl, in the film. Supported by Ramesh Krishna as the music director, and Gauri Venkatesh as the cinematographer, the film has stunts by Chinnayya and Sagar.

Varna, which is currently in post-production, is gearing up for a November release.

Austin Butler in talks to join Miami Vice

Talks are thick that actor Austin Butler will join Universal's upcoming feature Miami Vice, directed by Joseph Kosinski. The film, which is an adaptation of the 1980s eponymous NBC series, is expected to feature Butler as James "Sonny" Crockett, with Michael B Jordan rumoured to play his fellow Miami undercover detective Ricardo "Rico" Tubbs. Don Johnson and Philip Michael Thomas essayed the roles of Crockett and Tubbs, respectively, in the TV series. Planned for a release on August 6, 2027, the film is set to go on floors next year. Miami Vice, with a script from Eric Warren Singer and Dan Gilroy, is based on the pilot episode and the first season of the series, which ran for five seasons. The film will explore the '80s Miami juxtaposed between glamour and graft. This is not the first time Miami Vice has gotten a feature makeover. Michael Mann helmed the 2006 film starring Colin Farrell as Crockett and Jamie Foxx as Tubbs.